United Nations A/63/251

General Assembly

Distr.: General
19 September 2008

Original: English

Sixty-third session

Agenda of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly*

Adopted by the General Assembly at its 2nd plenary meeting, on 19 September 2008

1. Opening of the session by the President of the General Assembly.
2. Minute of silent prayer or meditation.
3. Credentials of representatives to the sixty-third session of the General Assembly:
   (a) Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee;
   (b) Report of the Credentials Committee.
4. Election of the President of the General Assembly.[1]
5. Election of the officers of the Main Committees.[1]
6. Election of the Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly.[1]
7. Organization of work, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items: reports of the General Committee.
8. General debate.

A. Maintenance of international peace and security

9. Report of the Security Council.
10. Report of the Peacebuilding Commission.
11. The role of diamonds in fuelling conflict.
12. Prevention of armed conflict.

* Organized under headings corresponding to the priorities of the Organization.

[1] In accordance with rule 30 of the rules of procedure, the General Assembly will hold these elections for its sixty-fourth session at least three months before the opening of that session.

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13. Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development.

14. Zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic.

15. The situation in the Middle East.

16. Question of Palestine.

17. The situation in Afghanistan.

18. The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

19. Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba.

20. The situation in Central America: progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development.[2]

21. Question of Cyprus.[2]

22. Armed aggression against the Democratic Republic of the Congo.[2]

23. Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas).[2]

24. The situation of democracy and human rights in Haiti.[2]

25. Armed Israeli aggression against the Iraqi nuclear installations and its grave consequences for the established international system concerning the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and international peace and security.[2]

26. Consequences of the Iraqi occupation of and aggression against Kuwait.[2]

27. Effects of atomic radiation.

28. International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space.

29. United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East.

30. Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories.

31. Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects.

32. Questions relating to information.

33. Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations.

34. Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

35. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations.

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[2] This item remains on the agenda for consideration upon notification by a Member State.

36. Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories.

37. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

38. Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources.

39. Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions.

B. Promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and recent United Nations conferences

40. Report of the Economic and Social Council.

41. Implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS.

42. Sport for peace and development.

43. 2001-2010: Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularly in Africa.

44. Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields.

45. Culture of peace.

46. Information and communication technologies for development.

47. Macroeconomic policy questions:

    (a) International trade and development;

    (b) International financial system and development;

    (c) External debt and development: towards a durable solution to the debt problems of developing countries;

    (d) Commodities.

48. Follow-up to and implementation of the outcome of the 2002 International Conference on Financing for Development and the preparation of the 2008 Review Conference.

49. Sustainable development:

    (a) Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development;

(b) Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;

(c) International Strategy for Disaster Reduction;

(d) Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind;

(e) Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa;

(f) Convention on Biological Diversity;

(g) Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its tenth special session.

50. Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat).

51. Globalization and interdependence:

(a) Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence;

(b) International migration and development;

(c) Culture and development;

(d) Preventing and combating corrupt practices and transfer of assets of illicit origin and returning such assets, in particular to the countries of origin, consistent with the United Nations Convention against Corruption;

(e) Integration of the economies in transition into the world economy.

52. Groups of countries in special situations:

(a) Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries;

(b) Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation.

53. Eradication of poverty and other development issues:

(a) Implementation of the second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017);

(b) Industrial development cooperation.

54. Operational activities for development.

55. Social development:

(a) Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly;

(b) Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family;

(c) Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing;

(d) United Nations Literacy Decade: education for all;

(e) Review and appraisal of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons.

56. Advancement of women:

(a) Advancement of women;

(b) Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly.

C. Development of Africa

57. New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support:

(a) New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support;

(b) Causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa.

D. Promotion of human rights

58. Report of the Human Rights Council.

59. Holocaust remembrance.

60. Promotion and protection of the rights of children:

(a) Promotion and protection of the rights of children;

(b) Follow-up to the outcome of the special session on children.

61. Indigenous issues:

(a) Indigenous issues;

(b) Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People.

62. Elimination of racism and racial discrimination:

(a) Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

(b) Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action.

63. Right of peoples to self-determination.

64. Promotion and protection of human rights:

(a) Implementation of human rights instruments;

(b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

(c) Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives;

(d) Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action;

(e) Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

E. Effective coordination of humanitarian assistance efforts

65. Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance:

(a) Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations;

(b) Special economic assistance to individual countries or regions;

(c) Assistance to the Palestinian people.

F. Promotion of justice and international law

66. Report of the International Court of Justice.

67. Report of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994.

68. Report of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991.

69. Report of the International Criminal Court.

70. Oceans and the law of the sea:

(a) Oceans and the law of the sea;

(b) Sustainable fisheries, including through the 1995 Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and

Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, and related instruments.

71. Request for an advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on whether the unilateral declaration of independence of Kosovo is in accordance with international law.

72. Nationality of natural persons in relation to the succession of States.

73. Criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission.

74. Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its forty-first session.

75. Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its sixtieth session.

76. Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts.

77. Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives.

78. Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization.

79. The rule of law at the national and international levels.

G. Disarmament

80. Report of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

81. Reduction of military budgets.

82. Prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons: report of the Conference on Disarmament.

83. Maintenance of international security — good-neighbourliness, stability and development in South-Eastern Europe.

84. Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament.

85. Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security.

86. Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East.

87. Conclusion of effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.

88. Prevention of an arms race in outer space.

89. General and complete disarmament:

(a) Notification of nuclear tests;

(b) Missiles;

(c) Problems arising from the accumulation of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus;

(d) Disarmament and non-proliferation education;

(e) Consolidation of peace through practical disarmament measures;

(f) Transparency in armaments;

(g) Information on confidence-building measures in the field of conventional arms;

(h) Mongolia's international security and nuclear-weapon-free status;

(i) Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia;

(j) Assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons and collecting them;

(k) Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction;

(l) Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: accelerating the implementation of nuclear disarmament commitments;

(m) Promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation;

(n) Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control;

(o) Convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament;

(p) Effects of the use of armaments and ammunitions containing depleted uranium;

(q) Reducing nuclear danger;

(r) Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction;

(s) Nuclear-weapon-free southern hemisphere and adjacent areas;

(t) Regional disarmament;

(u) Follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons*;

(v) Nuclear disarmament;

(w) Transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities;

(x) Conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels;

(y) Confidence-building measures in the regional and subregional context;

(z) The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects;

(aa) Relationship between disarmament and development;

(bb) United Nations conference to identify appropriate ways of eliminating nuclear dangers in the context of nuclear disarmament.

90. Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly:

(a) United Nations disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services;

(b) United Nations Disarmament Information Programme;

(c) United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean;

(d) United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament;

(e) Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons;

(f) United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific;

(g) Regional confidence-building measures: activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa;

(h) United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa.

91. Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session:

(a) Report of the Disarmament Commission;

(b) Report of the Conference on Disarmament.

92. The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East.

93. Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects.

94. Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region.

95. Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

96. Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction.

H. Drug control, crime prevention and combating international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations

97. Crime prevention and criminal justice.

98. International drug control.

99. Measures to eliminate international terrorism.

I. Organizational, administrative and other matters

100. Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization.

101. Report of the Secretary-General on the Peacebuilding Fund.

102. Notification by the Secretary-General under Article 12, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations.

103. Elections to fill vacancies in principal organs:

(a) Election of five non-permanent members of the Security Council;

(b) Election of eighteen members of the Economic and Social Council;

(c) Election of five members of the International Court of Justice.

104. Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other elections:

(a) Election of twenty members of the Committee for Programme and Coordination;

(b) Election of seven members of the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission;

(c) Election of eighteen members of the Human Rights Council.

105. Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments:

(a) Appointment of members of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

(b) Appointment of members of the Committee on Contributions;

(c) Confirmation of the appointment of members of the Investments Committee;

(d) Appointment of members of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal;

(e) Appointment of members of the International Civil Service Commission;

(f) Appointment of members and alternate members of the United Nations Staff Pension Committee;

(g) Appointment of members of the Committee on Conferences;

(h) Appointment of a member of the Joint Inspection Unit;

(i) Confirmation of the appointment of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme;

(j) Confirmation of the appointment of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development;

(k) Appointment of the judges of the United Nations Dispute Tribunal;

(l) Appointment of the judges of the United Nations Appeals Tribunal.

106. Admission of new Members to the United Nations.

107. Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit.

108. Follow-up to the commemoration of the two-hundredth anniversary of the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade.

109. Implementation of the resolutions of the United Nations.

110. Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly.

111. Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and related matters.

112. Strengthening of the United Nations system.

113. Multilingualism.

114. Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations:

(a) Cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union;

(b) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization;

(c) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations;

(d) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization;

(e) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Caribbean Community;

(f) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries;

(g) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Council of Europe;

(h) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Community of Central African States;

(i) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization;

(j) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Eurasian Economic Community;

(k) Cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization of la Francophonie;

(l) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union;

(m) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Latin American Economic System;

(n) Cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States;

(o) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons;

(p) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe;

(q) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of American States;

(r) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference;

(s) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Pacific Islands Forum;

(t) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization;

(u) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Southern African Development Community.

115. Follow-up to the recommendations on administrative management and internal oversight of the Independent Inquiry Committee into the United Nations Oil-for-Food Programme.

116. Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors:

(a) United Nations;

(b) United Nations peacekeeping operations;

(c) International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO;

(d) United Nations University;

(e) Capital master plan;

(f) United Nations Development Programme;

(g) United Nations Children's Fund;

(h) United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East;

(i) United Nations Institute for Training and Research;

(j) Voluntary funds administered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;

(k) Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme;

(l) United Nations Population Fund;

(m) United Nations Human Settlements Programme;

(n) Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme;

(o) United Nations Office for Project Services;

(p) International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994;

(q) International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991.

117. Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations.

118. Programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009.

119. Programme planning.

120. Improving the financial situation of the United Nations.

121. Pattern of conferences.

122. Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations.

123. Human resources management.

124. Joint Inspection Unit.

125. United Nations common system.

126. United Nations pension system.

127. Administrative and budgetary coordination of the United Nations with the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency.

128. Report on the activities of the Office of Internal Oversight Services.

129. Administration of justice at the United Nations.

130. Financing of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994.

131. Financing of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991.

132. Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations.

133. Financing of the United Nations Operation in Burundi.

134. Financing of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire.

135. Financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus.

136. Financing of thé United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

137. Financing of the United Nations Mission in East Timor.

138. Financing of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste.

139. Financing of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea.

140. Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia.

141. Financing of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti.

142. Financing of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo.

143. Financing of the United Nations Mission in Liberia.

144. Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East:

(a) United Nations Disengagement Observer Force;

(b) United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon.

145. Financing of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone.

146. Financing of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan.

147. Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara.

148. Financing of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur.

149. Financing of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad.

150. Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country.

151. Observer status for the South Centre in the General Assembly.

152. Observer status for the Agency for International Trade Information and Cooperation in the General Assembly.

153. Observer status for the University for Peace in the General Assembly.

United Nations A/63/252

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Distr.: General
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Sixty-third session

Allocation of agenda items for the sixty-third session of the General Assembly

Adopted by the General Assembly at its 2nd plenary meeting, on 19 September 2008

Plenary meetings

1. Opening of the session by the President of the General Assembly.
2. Minute of silent prayer or meditation.
3. Credentials of representatives to the sixty-third session of the General Assembly:
   (a) Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee;
   (b) Report of the Credentials Committee.
4. Election of the President of the General Assembly.[1]
6. Election of the Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly.[1]
7. Organization of work, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items: reports of the General Committee.
8. General debate.

A. Maintenance of international peace and security

9. Report of the Security Council.
10. Report of the Peacebuilding Commission.
11. The role of diamonds in fuelling conflict.
12. Prevention of armed conflict.

[1] In accordance with rule 30 of the rules of procedure, the General Assembly will hold these elections for its sixty-fourth session at least three months before the opening of that session.

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13. Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development.

14. Zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic.

15. The situation in the Middle East.

16. Question of Palestine.

17. The situation in Afghanistan.

18. The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

19. Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba.

20. The situation in Central America: progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development.[2]

21. Question of Cyprus.[2]

22. Armed aggression against the Democratic Republic of the Congo.[2]

23. Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas).[2]

24. The situation of democracy and human rights in Haiti.[2]

25. Armed Israeli aggression against the Iraqi nuclear installations and its grave consequences for the established international system concerning the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and international peace and security.[2]

26. Consequences of the Iraqi occupation of and aggression against Kuwait.[2]

31. Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects.[3]

B. Promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and recent United Nations conferences

40. Report of the Economic and Social Council.[4]

41. Implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS.

42. Sport for peace and development.

43. 2001-2010: Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularly in Africa.

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[2] This item remains on the agenda for consideration upon notification by a Member State.

[3] By its resolution 62/273, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations that the Assembly hold a commemorative meeting at its sixty-third session, as described in paragraph 42 of A/62/250, for the sixtieth anniversary of peacekeeping.

[4] The General Assembly took note of the clarification that, in implementing resolution 58/316, the relevant parts of chapter I of the report of the Economic and Social Council would be considered by the Main Committees concerned, under agenda items already allocated to them, for final action by the Assembly.

44. Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields.[5]

45. Culture of peace.

52. Groups of countries in special situations:

(b) Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation.[6]

C. Development of Africa

57. New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support:

(a) New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support;[7]

(b) Causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa.

D. Promotion of human rights

59. Holocaust remembrance.

64. Promotion and protection of human rights.[8]

E. Effective coordination of humanitarian assistance efforts

65. Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance:

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[5] By its resolution 57/270 B, the General Assembly decided to consider under this item the chapters of the annual report of the Economic and Social Council relevant to the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, including through the participation of the President of the Council in its discussions. The Assembly also took note of resolution 60/265, in which it decided to dedicate a specific meeting focused on development, including an assessment of progress over the previous year, at each session of the Assembly during the debate on the follow-up to the Millennium Declaration and the 2005 World Summit Outcome.

[6] By its resolution 62/204, the General Assembly decided to hold, within existing resources, two days of high-level plenary meetings devoted to the midterm review of the Almaty Programme of Action during the sixty-third session of the Assembly, on 2 and 3 October 2008, to be chaired by the President of the Assembly.

[7] By its resolutions 61/229 and 62/179, the General Assembly decided to convene, during its sixty-third session, a high-level meeting on the theme "Africa's development needs: state of implementation of various commitments, challenges and the way forward". By its resolution 62/242, the Assembly decided that the high-level meeting would be held on 22 September 2008, prior to the general debate of the sixty-third session of the Assembly.

[8] By its resolution 62/171, the General Assembly decided to commemorate the sixtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights at a plenary meeting to be held on 10 December 2008.

(a) Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations;

(b) Special economic assistance to individual countries or regions;

(c) Assistance to the Palestinian people.

F. Promotion of justice and international law

66. Report of the International Court of Justice.

67. Report of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994.

68. Report of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991.

69. Report of the International Criminal Court.

70. Oceans and the law of the sea:

(a) Oceans and the law of the sea;

(b) Sustainable fisheries, including through the 1995 Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, and related instruments.

71. Request for an advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on whether the unilateral declaration of independence of Kosovo is in accordance with international law.

G. Disarmament

80. Report of the International Atomic Energy Agency.[9]

I. Organizational, administrative and other matters

100. Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization.[10]

101. Report of the Secretary-General on the Peacebuilding Fund.

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[9] The General Assembly took note of the fact that some portions of the annual report of the International Atomic Energy Agency, which is to be considered directly in plenary meeting under item 80, deal with the subject matter of the item entitled "General and complete disarmament", and decided that the relevant paragraphs of the report would be drawn to the attention of the First Committee in connection with its consideration of item 89.

[10] As at previous sessions, the General Assembly will hear a brief presentation by the Secretary-General on his annual report as the first item in the morning prior to the opening of the general debate on Tuesday, 23 September 2008.

102. Notification by the Secretary-General under Article 12, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations.

103. Elections to fill vacancies in principal organs:

(a) Election of five non-permanent members of the Security Council;

(b) Election of eighteen members of the Economic and Social Council;

(c) Election of five members of the International Court of Justice.

104. Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other elections:

(a) Election of twenty members of the Committee for Programme and Coordination;

(b) Election of seven members of the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission;

(c) Election of eighteen members of the Human Rights Council.

105. Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments:[11]

(g) Appointment of members of the Committee on Conferences;

(h) Appointment of a member of the Joint Inspection Unit;

(i) Confirmation of the appointment of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme;

(j) Confirmation of the appointment of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development;

(k) Appointment of the judges of the United Nations Dispute Tribunal;

(l) Appointment of the judges of the United Nations Appeals Tribunal.

106. Admission of new Members to the United Nations.

107. Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit.[12]

108. Follow-up to the commemoration of the two-hundredth anniversary of the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade.

109. Implementation of the resolutions of the United Nations.

110. Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly.[13]

111. Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and related matters.

112. Strengthening of the United Nations system.

113. Multilingualism.

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[11] For sub-items (a) to (f), see Fifth Committee.

[12] By its resolution 60/265, the General Assembly decided to dedicate a specific meeting focused on development, including an assessment of progress over the previous year, at each session of the Assembly during the debate on the follow-up to the Millennium Declaration and the 2005 World Summit Outcome.

[13] Pursuant to its resolution 58/316 and in order to facilitate the work of the Main Committees, the General Assembly decided to allocate item 110 to all the Main Committees for the sole purpose of considering and taking action on their respective tentative programmes of work.

114. Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations:

(a) Cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union;

(b) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization;

(c) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations;

(d) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization;

(e) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Caribbean Community;

(f) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries;

(g) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Council of Europe;

(h) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Community of Central African States;

(i) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization;

(j) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Eurasian Economic Community;

(k) Cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization of la Francophonie;

(l) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union;

(m) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Latin American Economic System;

(n) Cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States;

(o) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons;

(p) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe;

(q) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of American States;

(r) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference;

(s) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Pacific Islands Forum;

(t) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization;

(u) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Southern African Development Community.

115. Follow-up to the recommendations on administrative management and internal oversight of the Independent Inquiry Committee into the United Nations Oil-for-Food Programme.

119. Programme planning.[14]

First Committee

5. Election of the officers of the Main Committees.[1]

G. Disarmament

81. Reduction of military budgets.

82. Prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons: report of the Conference on Disarmament.

83. Maintenance of international security — good-neighbourliness, stability and development in South-Eastern Europe.

84. Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament.

85. Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security.

86. Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East.

87. Conclusion of effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.

88. Prevention of an arms race in outer space.

89. General and complete disarmament:[9]

(a) Notification of nuclear tests;

(b) Missiles;

(c) Problems arising from the accumulation of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus;

(d) Disarmament and non-proliferation education;

(e) Consolidation of peace through practical disarmament measures;

(f) Transparency in armaments;

(g) Information on confidence-building measures in the field of conventional arms;

[14] In accordance with resolution 62/224, in which the General Assembly re-emphasized the role of the plenary and its Main Committees in reviewing and taking action on the appropriate recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination relevant to their work, in accordance with regulation 4.10 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation, the General Assembly decided to allocate this item to all the Main Committees and the plenary to enhance discussion of evaluation, planning, budgeting and monitoring reports.

(h) Mongolia's international security and nuclear-weapon-free status;

(i) Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia;

(j) Assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons and collecting them;

(k) Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction;

(l) Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: accelerating the implementation of nuclear disarmament commitments;

(m) Promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation;

(n) Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control;

(o) Convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament;

(p) Effects of the use of armaments and ammunitions containing depleted uranium;

(q) Reducing nuclear danger;

(r) Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction;

(s) Nuclear-weapon-free southern hemisphere and adjacent areas;

(t) Regional disarmament;

(u) Follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons*;

(v) Nuclear disarmament;

(w) Transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities;

(x) Conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels;

(y) Confidence-building measures in the regional and subregional context;

(z) The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects;

(aa) Relationship between disarmament and development;

(bb) United Nations conference to identify appropriate ways of eliminating nuclear dangers in the context of nuclear disarmament.

90. Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly:

(a) United Nations disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services;

(b) United Nations Disarmament Information Programme;

(c) United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean;

(d) United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament;

(e) Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons;

(f) United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific;

(g) Regional confidence-building measures: activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa;

(h) United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa.

91. Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session:

(a) Report of the Disarmament Commission;

(b) Report of the Conference on Disarmament.

92. The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East.

93. Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects.

94. Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region.

95. Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

96. Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction.

I. Organizational, administrative and other matters

110. Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly.[13]

119. Programme planning.[14]

Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

5. Election of the officers of the Main Committees.[1]

A. Maintenance of international peace and security

27. Effects of atomic radiation.

28. International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space.

29. United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East.

30. Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories.

31. Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects.[3]

32. Questions relating to information.

33. Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations.

34. Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

35. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations.

36. Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories.

37. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

I. Organizational, administrative and other matters

110. Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly.[13]

119. Programme planning.[14]

Second Committee

5. Election of the officers of the Main Committees.[1]

A. Maintenance of international peace and security

38. Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources.

B. Promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and recent United Nations conferences

46. Information and communication technologies for development.

47. Macroeconomic policy questions:

(a) International trade and development;

(b) International financial system and development;

(c) External debt and development: towards a durable solution to the debt problems of developing countries;

(d) Commodities.

48. Follow-up to and implementation of the outcome of the 2002 International Conference on Financing for Development and the preparation of the 2008 Review Conference.[15]

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[15] By its resolution 62/187, the General Assembly decided that the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus would be held in Doha from 29 November to 2 December 2008.

49. Sustainable development:

(a) Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development;

(b) Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;

(c) International Strategy for Disaster Reduction;

(d) Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind;

(e) Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa;

(f) Convention on Biological Diversity;

(g) Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its tenth special session.

50. Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat).

51. Globalization and interdependence:

(a) Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence;

(b) International migration and development;

(c) Culture and development;

(d) Preventing and combating corrupt practices and transfer of assets of illicit origin and returning such assets, in particular to the countries of origin, consistent with the United Nations Convention against Corruption;

(e) Integration of the economies in transition into the world economy.

52. Groups of countries in special situations:

(a) Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries;

(b) Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation.[6]

53. Eradication of poverty and other development issues:

(a) Implementation of the second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017);

(b) Industrial development cooperation.

54. Operational activities for development.[16]

I. Organizational, administrative and other matters

110. Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly.[13]

119. Programme planning.[14]

Third Committee

5. Election of the officers of the Main Committees.[1]

A. Maintenance of international peace and security

39. Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions.

B. Promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and recent United Nations conferences

55. Social development:

(a) Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly;

(b) Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family;

(c) Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing;

(d) United Nations Literacy Decade: education for all;

(e) Review and appraisal of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons.

56. Advancement of women:[16]

(a) Advancement of women;

(b) Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly.

D. Promotion of human rights

60. Promotion and protection of the rights of children:

(a) Promotion and protection of the rights of children;

(b) Follow-up to the outcome of the special session on children.

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[16] The General Assembly decided that the report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme on the operations, management and budget of the United Nations Development Fund for Women would be referred to the Second Committee for consideration under item 54.

61. Indigenous issues:

(a) Indigenous issues;

(b) Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People.

62. Elimination of racism and racial discrimination:

(a) Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

(b) Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action.

63. Right of peoples to self-determination.

64. Promotion and protection of human rights:[8]

(a) Implementation of human rights instruments;

(b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

(c) Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives;

(d) Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action;

(e) Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

H. Drug control, crime prevention and combating international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations

97. Crime prevention and criminal justice.

98. International drug control.

I. Organizational, administrative and other matters

110. Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly.[13]

119. Programme planning.[14]

Fifth Committee

5. Election of the officers of the Main Committees.[1]

I. Organizational, administrative and other matters

105. Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments:[17]

(a) Appointment of members of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

(b) Appointment of members of the Committee on Contributions;

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[17] For sub-items (g) to (l), see Plenary meetings.

(c) Confirmation of the appointment of members of the Investments Committee;

(d) Appointment of members of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal;

(e) Appointment of members of the International Civil Service Commission;

(f) Appointment of members and alternate members of the United Nations Staff Pension Committee.

110. Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly.[13]

116. Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors:

(a) United Nations;

(b) United Nations peacekeeping operations;

(c) International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO;

(d) United Nations University;

(e) Capital master plan;

(f) United Nations Development Programme;

(g) United Nations Children's Fund;

(h) United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East;

(i) United Nations Institute for Training and Research;

(j) Voluntary funds administered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;

(k) Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme;

(l) United Nations Population Fund;

(m) United Nations Human Settlements Programme;

(n) Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme;

(o) United Nations Office for Project Services;

(p) International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994;

(q) International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991.

117. Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations.

118. Programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009.

119. Programme planning.[14]

120. Improving the financial situation of the United Nations.

121. Pattern of conferences.

122. Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations.

123. Human resources management.

124. Joint Inspection Unit.

125. United Nations common system.

126. United Nations pension system.

127. Administrative and budgetary coordination of the United Nations with the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency.

128. Report on the activities of the Office of Internal Oversight Services.

129. Administration of justice at the United Nations.[18]

130. Financing of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994.

131. Financing of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991.

132. Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations.

133. Financing of the United Nations Operation in Burundi.

134. Financing of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire.

135. Financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus.

136. Financing of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

137. Financing of the United Nations Mission in East Timor.

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[18] Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 62/228, in which the Assembly invited the Sixth Committee to consider the legal aspects of the reports to be submitted by the Secretary-General, without prejudice to the role of the Fifth Committee as the Main Committee entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters, and to its decision 62/519, whereby the Assembly decided to establish an Ad Hoc Committee on the Administration of Justice at the United Nations for the purpose of continuing the work on the legal aspects of the item, taking into account the results of the deliberations of the Sixth Committee on the item, previous decisions of the Assembly and any further decisions that the Assembly might take during its sixty-second session, and by which it also decided that the Ad Hoc Committee should report on its work to the Assembly at its sixty-third session, the Assembly decided to allocate this item to the Fifth Committee and to the Sixth Committee.

138. Financing of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste.

139. Financing of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea.

140. Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia.

141. Financing of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti.

142. Financing of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo.

143. Financing of the United Nations Mission in Liberia.

144. Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East:

(a) United Nations Disengagement Observer Force;

(b) United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon.

145. Financing of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone.

146. Financing of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan.

147. Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara.

148. Financing of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur.

149. Financing of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad.

Sixth Committee

5. Election of the officers of the Main Committees.[1]

F. Promotion of justice and international law

72. Nationality of natural persons in relation to the succession of States.

73. Criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission.

74. Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its forty-first session.

75. Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its sixtieth session.

76. Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts.

77. Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives.

78. Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization.

79. The rule of law at the national and international levels.

H. Drug control, crime prevention and combating international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations

99. Measures to eliminate international terrorism.

I. Organizational, administrative and other matters

110. Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly.[13]

119. Programme planning.[14]

129. Administration of justice at the United Nations.[18]

150. Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country.

151. Observer status for the South Centre in the General Assembly.

152. Observer status for the Agency for International Trade Information and Cooperation in the General Assembly.

153. Observer status for the University for Peace in the General Assembly.

United Nations A/63/253

General Assembly

Distr.: General
12 August 2008

Original: English

Sixty-third session
Item 132 of the provisional agenda*
Administration of justice at the United Nations

Letter dated 18 July 2008 from the President of the Administrative Tribunal addressed to the President of the General Assembly

At a special plenary session held on 17 July 2008, the Administrative Tribunal resolved to express its concern about the absence of appropriate transitional measures in the draft statutes of the United Nations Dispute Tribunal and Appeals Tribunal, which are expected to be created with effect from 1 January 2009.

Several of the issues pertaining to the new tribunals are yet to be decided by the General Assembly. Accordingly, many matters remain unclear at the present time. The attention of the Administrative Tribunal has been drawn to an undated information circular calling for applications of candidates for judges for the new tribunals. Advertisements to similar effect have been published in the media, with a closing date for applications of 21 July 2008. The website to which potential candidates were directed for further information about the posts was still unavailable on 17 July.

To date, no information has been provided to the Administrative Tribunal or to its members individually on the following matters:

(a) Will serving members of the Administrative Tribunal be transferred to the new Appeals Tribunal for the unexpired periods of their terms of office?

(b) Will members of the Administrative Tribunal whose first four-year terms of office expire on 31 December 2008 be eligible for reappointment to the new Appeals Tribunal?

(c) Will members of the Administrative Tribunal whose second four-year terms of office expire on 31 December 2008 be eligible for membership in the new Appeals Tribunal?

(d) In the event that the new Dispute Tribunal and Appeals Tribunal do not take over the existing case load of the Administrative Tribunal with effect from 1 January 2009 and the work of the Administrative Tribunal continues, will the terms of the current members whose terms expire on 31 December 2008 be extended

* A/63/150.

08-45892 (E) 130808

or will new members be elected by the General Assembly to replace the retiring members, and if so for what terms?

(e) Will candidates who have at least 15 years of professional experience, not all of it in a judicial capacity, be considered eligible for appointment?

The Tribunal's concerns about each of these matters are as follows:

1. Members of the Administrative Tribunal are appointed by the General Assembly. Article 3.5 of the statute of the Tribunal states that: "No member of the Tribunal can be dismissed by the General Assembly unless the other members are of the unanimous opinion that he or she is unsuited for further service".

This provision has the important function of ensuring the tenure and independence of the members of the Tribunal. A resolution by the General Assembly to terminate the appointments of serving members without transferring them to the new Appeals Tribunal would violate article 3.5. Moreover, if serving members are expected to apply for membership of the new Appeals Tribunal and to submit an example of a judgment delivered by them, as well as the names of referees, this would seriously undermine their independence. Bearing in mind that the Internal Justice Council includes staff and administration nominees who have appeared and who are currently before the Tribunal, the appearance may be given that those who have been or will be the subject of the Tribunal's judgments will have the opportunity to deny individual judges further appointment. For that reason, serving members would find it invidious to apply for posts in the new Appeals Tribunal, while discharging their current responsibilities as members of the Administrative Tribunal. The proper solution to this problem would have been to transfer serving members to the new Appeals Tribunal for the unexpired periods of their office (it is noted that the functions of the new Appeals Tribunal are virtually identical to those of the present Administrative Tribunal save as to the body from whose decisions applications can be made). This would also have the advantage of ensuring the continuity and rotation of membership of the new Appeals Tribunal because each of the serving members has a different remaining term of office.

2. Similar considerations to those in paragraph 1 above apply, because these members have a legitimate expectation of reappointment by the General Assembly on the expiry of their first term.

3. Although these members who have served two terms have no such expectation, the statutes of the new Dispute and Appeals Tribunals should make it clear whether or not such persons will be considered as eligible for appointment.

4. Two of the current seven members of the Administrative Tribunal are due to retire at the end of their second term on 31 December 2008, and one will have finished his first term and be eligible for reappointment at that time. This leaves only four serving members. The Tribunal is obliged under its article 3.1 to sit in panels of three, and there is a considerable backlog in its work. If the Administrative Tribunal is to continue for any length of time, provision will need to be made for filling vacancies. In addition, provision needs to be made for the remuneration of members who are asked to clear the backlog.

5. Article 3.1 of the statute of the Administrative Tribunal requires members to "possess judicial experience in the field of administrative law or its equivalent within their national jurisdiction" but contains no stipulation as to the length of time during which such experience is required. Article 3.3 (b) of the draft statute of the Appeals Tribunal requires "at least 15 years of judicial experience in the field of administrative law, or the equivalent within one or more national jurisdictions". The present requirement allows flexibility, for example in the case of a person who has lengthy and extensive professional experience in the field of administrative law or its equivalent, but not all of it in a judicial capacity. The requirement of an arbitrary number of years in a particular capacity may adversely affect candidates who, for a variety of reasons, have been unable to acquire the required number of years in a judicial capacity but have extensive professional experience of other kinds, for example as practicing lawyers. The Administrative Tribunal has found that members with such experience can make a valuable contribution to its work at an appellate level.

The General Assembly is requested to give urgent consideration to these transitional matters before it approves the draft statutes of the new tribunals. Accordingly, I should be grateful of you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly under item of the provisional agenda, "Administration of justice at the United Nations".

(*Signed*) Spyridon **Flogaitis**
President
United Nations Administrative Tribunal

United Nations A/63/254

General Assembly

Distr.: General
8 August 2008

Original: English

Sixty-third session
Item 66 of the provisional agenda*
Right of peoples to self-determination

Right of peoples to self-determination

Report of the Secretary General

Summary

In its resolution 62/144, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report to it at its sixty-third session on the question of the universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination. The present report has been prepared in accordance with that request. It contains a summary of the developments relating to the consideration of this subject by the Human Rights Council and outlines the relevant jurisprudence of the Human Rights Committee on the treaty-based human rights norms relating to the realization of the right of peoples to self-determination.

* A/63/150.

08-45497 (E) 270808

Contents

		Page
I.	Introduction	3
II.	Consideration of the question of the realization of the right of peoples to self-determination by the Human Rights Council	3
III.	Concluding observations of the Human Rights Committee	5

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 62/144, the General Assembly requested the Human Rights Council to continue to give special attention to the violation of human rights, especially the right to self-determination, resulting from foreign military intervention, aggression or occupation, and requested the Secretary-General to report on this question to the Assembly at its sixty-third session. The present report is prepared pursuant to that request.

2. The report contains a summary of the developments relating to the consideration of this subject by the Human Rights Council at its sixth special session and at its sixth, seventh and eighth regular sessions. It also outlines the recent concluding observations of the Human Rights Committee, based on its consideration of the periodic reports submitted by the States parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in respect of the implementation of the right to self-determination guaranteed in article 1 of the Covenant.

II. Consideration of the question of the realization of the right of peoples to self-determination by the Human Rights Council

3. On 20 September 2007, at the sixth session of the Human Rights Council, the President of the Council and the Deputy United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, on behalf of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, reported on their efforts towards the implementation of Council resolutions S-1/1 and S-3/1, dealing with the right to self-determination of the Palestinian people, and on the compliance of Israel, the occupying Power, with these two resolutions, as requested by the Council in its resolution OM/1/2 entitled Human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory: follow-up to Human Rights Council resolutions S-1/1 and S-3/1. Following the debate on the subject, the Council adopted resolution 6/18, in which it reiterated its request to the President of the Human Rights Council and the High Commissioner to report to the Council at its next session on their efforts for the implementation of the above-mentioned resolutions (see also para. 9 below).

4. The Council also considered the question of religious and cultural rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and adopted resolution 6/19, in which it called upon Israel, the occupying Power, to respect the religious and cultural rights enumerated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and to allow Palestinian worshippers unfettered access to their religious sites. The High Commissioner was requested to report to the Council on the implementation of that resolution at its next session.

5. At its sixth special session, held on 23 and 24 January 2008, the Council addressed the human rights violations emanating from Israeli military incursions in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Gaza and the West Bank town of Nablus. At the conclusion of the session, the Council adopted resolution S-6/1, in which it expressed grave concern at the repeated Israeli military attacks carried out in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, particularly in the occupied Gaza Strip, which

have resulted in loss of life and injuries among Palestinian civilians, including women and children. The Council called for urgent international action to put an immediate end to the grave violations committed by the occupying Power, Israel, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including the series of incessant and repeated Israeli military attacks and incursions therein and the siege of the occupied Gaza Strip, and demanded that the occupying Power, Israel, immediately lift the siege it has imposed on the occupied Gaza Strip, restore continued supply of fuel, food and medicine and reopen the border crossings. The Council also called for an immediate protection of Palestinian civilians in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, in compliance with human rights law and international humanitarian law.

6. At its seventh session, the Council adopted resolution 7/17 on the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, reaffirming the inalienable, permanent and unqualified right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and its support for the solution of two States living side by side in peace and security, Palestine and Israel. The Council further decided to continue the consideration of this question at its session in March 2009.

7. In her report, submitted to the Council pursuant to its resolution S-6/1 (A/HRC/7/76), the High Commissioner for Human Rights called on all the parties (Israel, the Palestinian Authority and the de facto government of the Gaza Strip under the effective control of Hamas) to establish accountability mechanisms providing for law-based, independent, transparent and accessible investigations of alleged breaches of international human rights and humanitarian law, in accordance with their respective obligations, and to provide redress to victims where violations of law were found to have occurred.

8. At the same session, the Council also considered the report of the Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the rights of peoples to self-determination (A/HRC/7/7) and adopted resolution 7/21 on the mandate of the Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination.

9. On 27 and 28 May 2008, a high-level fact-finding mission, comprising Archbishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa and Professor Christine Chinkin of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, visited the town of Beit Hanoun during its visit to the occupied Palestinian territory of Gaza. The mission was established by the Council in November 2006, under its resolution S-3/1, following the Israeli attack resulting in the deaths of 19 Palestinian civilians, including seven children. The final report of the high-level fact-finding mission will be submitted to the Council at its next session, in September 2008.

10. On 16 June 2008, at its eighth session, the Council considered the report of the former Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967 (A/HRC/7/17) along with the report of the High Commissioner on the progress made with regard to the implementation of Council resolutions 7/1 (A/HRC/8/17) and 6/19 (A/HRC/8/18). The Council then held an interactive dialogue with the newly appointed Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, Mr. Richard Falk, which was followed by a general debate on the human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories. The first report of the High Commissioner focused on the closure of Gaza and its impact on the enjoyment of human rights. It

described the effects of violence against the civilian population and other human rights violations. The second report focused on the question of access of Palestinians to religious sites in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. It described how obstacles to the freedom of movement, such as the closure of Gaza, the permit system and the separation wall, hamper such access.

III. Concluding observations of the Human Rights Committee

11. The principle of self-determination is enshrined in Article 1, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations. Article 1, paragraph 1, of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and article 1, paragraph 1, of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights affirm the right of all peoples to self-determination. Article 1, paragraph 3, of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and article 1, paragraph 3, of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights impose upon States parties, including those having responsibility for the administration of Non-Self-Governing and Trust Territories, the obligation to promote the realization of that right and to respect it, in conformity with the provisions of the Charter.

12. During the reporting period, the Human Rights Committee addressed several issues related to the right to self-determination in its consideration of the periodic reports of States parties submitted under article 40 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. A summary of these observations is presented below.

13. In its concluding observations on Chile, adopted on 26 March 2007, the Human Rights Committee, while noting the intention expressed by the State party to give constitutional recognition to indigenous peoples, expressed concern about a variety of reports consistently indicating that some claims by indigenous peoples, the Mapuche in particular, have not been met, and about the slow progress made in demarcating indigenous lands, which has caused social tensions. The Committee was dismayed to learn that "ancestral lands" are still threatened by forestry expansion and megaprojects in infrastructure and energy (articles 1 and 27).

14. The Committee recommended that the State party: (a) make every possible effort to ensure that negotiations with indigenous communities lead to a solution that respects land rights of these communities in accordance with article 1, paragraph 2, and article 27 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and to expedite procedures to recognize such ancestral lands; (b) amend its Act No. 18.314 to bring it into line with article 27 of the Covenant and revise any sectoral legislation that may contravene rights spelled out in it; and (c) consult indigenous communities before granting licences for economic exploitation of disputed lands and guarantee that in no case will exploitation violate rights recognized in the Covenant (CCPR/C/CHL/CO/5, para. 19).

15. In its concluding observations on the Sudan adopted on 26 July 2007, the Human Rights Committee noted the efforts made by the State party on the issue of self-determination in Southern Sudan, in particular article 222 of the Interim National Constitution, which provides for a referendum on self-determination. The Committee regretted the lack of information from the State party concerning the human rights situation in Southern Sudan (CCPR/C/SDN/CO/3, para. 7).

16. The Human Rights Committee recommended that the State party deploy all the human and material resources required to hold, within the prescribed time limit, the referendum provided for by the Interim National Constitution. The Committee also recommended that the State party should ensure that its next periodic report covers the human rights situation throughout the Sudan, including Southern Sudan (CCPR/C/SDN/CO/3, para. 7).

United Nations A/63/255

General Assembly

Distr.: General
8 August 2008

Original: English

Sixty-third session
Item 43 of the provisional agenda*
Report of the Economic and Social Council

United Nations Population Award 2008

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the General Assembly the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund on the United Nations Population Award, established by the Assembly in its resolution 36/201. The report covers 2008 and was prepared in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 1982/112.

* A/63/150.

08-45506 (E) 260808

Report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund on the United Nations Population Award (2008)

I. Introduction

1. On 17 December 1981, the General Assembly adopted resolution 36/201, entitled "Establishment of the United Nations Population Award". The Award is presented annually to an individual or individuals, to an institution or institutions, or to any combination thereof for the most outstanding contribution to increasing awareness of population questions or to finding solutions to them.

2. The laureate is selected by the Committee for the United Nations Population Award, which is composed of representatives of 10 States Members of the United Nations, elected by the Economic and Social Council for a period of three years

3. In decision 41/445, the General Assembly amended article 2, paragraph 1, of the regulations governing the United Nations Population Award (resolution 36/201, annex), so that an individual and an institution could share the Award.

4. In decision 1987/129, the Economic and Social Council amended the rules of procedure of the Committee for the United Nations Population Award accordingly.

5. The current elected members of the Committee are Algeria, Bangladesh, the Czech Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Malaysia, Peru, Sweden and the United Republic of Tanzania.

6. During its first regular meeting, on 18 January 2008, the Committee re-elected Anders Lidén (Sweden) as Chairperson for 2008.

II. United Nations Population Award 2008

7. The Committee received 18 nominations from qualified nominators for the 2008 Award. Of these, 11 were for the individual category and 7 were for the institutional category. On 4 March 2008, in accordance with the mandate given to it by the General Assembly, and after a thorough review of the nominations, the Committee selected Dame Billie Miller of Barbados in the individual category and Family Care International of the United States of America in the institutional category.

8. The Committee selected Dame Billie Miller in recognition of her outstanding work as an advocate, policymaker, agent of change and role model for policies on gender and on sexual and reproductive health, including family planning, and for her success in building global understanding and support for achieving universal access to reproductive health. She has had a brilliant political career, beginning in the early 1970s. An attorney by profession, she was elected to Parliament in 1976, and was the first woman to be appointed as a minister in Barbados. She held ministerial portfolios in health and national insurance, education and culture, foreign affairs and international business, and tourism and international transport. She served as leader of opposition business in the Senate of Barbados, leader of the House of Assembly and was appointed Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs in 1994. Dame Miller also gained international recognition as a

leader on population and gender issues. In 2004, during its 50th anniversary celebrations, the International Planned Parenthood Federation (western hemisphere region) honoured Dame Miller for her lifelong contribution to the discussion of sexual and reproductive health. In 2005, at the invitation of the Inter-American Development Bank, she delivered an address entitled "Effective policies: removing obstacles to achieve the Millennium Development Goals", promoting social inclusion, in which she maintained that the Millennium Development Goals could not be achieved without full consideration of sexual and reproductive health and rights.

9. Dame Miller has exercised great influence in the debates and work of many intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. She served as chair of the Non-Governmental Organization Planning Committee for the International Conference on Population and Development, president of the International Planned Parenthood Federation (western hemisphere region), president of the Board of Directors of the Inter-American Parliamentary Group on Population and Development for the Caribbean and Latin America, and chair of the Executive Committee of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. Dame Miller was also an adviser to the Inter-American Dialogue Organization and a member of the United Nations Population Fund Advisory Panel on Women.

10. The Committee for the United Nations Population Award selected Family Care International in recognition of its achievements in building a global platform and partnership to end maternal mortality and to provide assistance for women at risk in developing countries, particularly in Africa, by promoting sexual and reproductive health for adolescents, ensuring safe motherhood and preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS.

11. Family Care International was established as an international non-governmental organization in New York in 1986, in response to data collected from surveys in the early 1980s indicating that maternal mortality was one of the leading causes of death in women in their reproductive years in the developing world. It has eight field offices in Africa and Latin America and 56 staff members, and operates with an annual budget of approximately $5 million, with projects in 22 countries.

12. The programme of work of Family Care International is organized around three areas: promoting sexual and reproductive health for adolescents; ensuring safe motherhood; and preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS. It has a wide range of activities, at the local through international levels. Some programmes take place at the grass-roots level, and the lessons learned are then used as guidelines to design larger projects. The knowledge, experience and expertise accumulated through this approach are discussed at national and international funding and policy debates, as well as at international events on population issues. For instance, during the International Conference on Population and Development, Family Care International recruited local non-governmental organizations in different countries to be a part of national delegations. This enabled the organizations to play advocacy roles, create a common front on specific issues and build consensus. To date, Family Care International has organized 16 regional and international conferences, has worked with more than 175 partners around the world and has produced outstanding educational and informational materials that have been widely disseminated. In October 2007, it co-organized the "Women Deliver" conference in London, which

reframed maternal health as a development issue. The conference had 2,000 participants from 110 countries, including cabinet ministers and parliamentarians, and generated a new global commitment to the issues of maternal mortality and safe motherhood.

13. Among the other achievements of Family Care International is the establishment in 1987 of the Safe Motherhood Inter-Agency Group, which brings together a number of international organizations, including the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Population Fund, the World Health Organization, the World Bank, the International Planned Parenthood Federation and the Population Council, with Family Care International serving as the secretariat. The Inter-Agency Group provides policy support and disseminates best practices and other information among policymakers and programme managers.

III. Financial matters

14. As of 31 December 2007, the Trust Fund for the United Nations Population Award had a total fund balance of $1,777,604.96. Interest income in 2007 was $40,255.41. Expenditures in 2008, including prizes given to the two laureates, totalled $74,617.74.

United Nations A/63/256

General Assembly

Distr.: General
8 August 2008

Original: English

Sixty-third session
Item 54 (e) of the provisional agenda*
Globalization and interdependence: integration of the economies in transition into the world economy

Integration of the economies in transition into the world economy

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report provides an overview of the progress made in the integration of the economies in transition into the world economy during the period 2006-2007 and highlights major policy challenges faced by those countries. South-Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) have continued to see strong economic growth as well as further progress in integration through trade, foreign direct investment (FDI) and labour migration. The pattern of production and exports, however, remains narrow-based, limiting the region's potential benefits from full integration into the world economy. The major challenge for these countries, with variations in degree among them, is to broaden their growth base and reduce their vulnerability to external shocks.

This report summarizes the relevant policy issues and strategies for the transition economies with respect to encouraging investment, including FDI; strengthening trade linkages; improving the business environment so as to advance market reforms; and increasing investment in human capital. Special attention is paid to the policy challenges faced by the smaller member States of CIS, highlighting major impediments to growth and poverty reduction in these countries. The report also contains a number of recommendations to the international organizations on strengthening their policy advice and technical assistance to the countries with economies in transition.

* A/63/150 and Corr.1.

08-45552 (E) 110908

Contents

		Page
I.	Introduction	3
II.	Trends and patterns in economic, trade and investment developments in 2006-2007	4
	A. Macroeconomic trends	4
	B. Integration through trade	5
	C. Integration through capital flows and labour migration	6
III.	Policies to stimulate economic diversification	7
	A. Macroeconomic policies	7
	B. Economic restructuring and improving the business environment	8
	C. Role of the European Union in integrating economies in transition	9
	D. Multilateral and regional trade integration	10
	E. Policies promoting foreign direct investment	12
	F. Investing in human capital, migration policies and mobilizing remittances for investment	13
IV.	Special challenges for the smaller member countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States	14
V.	Policy challenges and conclusions	16
Annex		
	Figures and tables	19

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 61/210 of 20 December 2006, the General Assembly reaffirmed the need for the full integration of the countries with economies in transition into the world economy and the creation of conducive national and international environments in this regard. The Assembly also stressed the importance of enhancing the capacity of the economies in transition to utilize effectively the benefits of globalization, including ensuring favourable market access for their exports and attracting the foreign direct investment (FDI) required to support growth and development.

2. In the same resolution, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare, in close consultation with the countries with economies in transition,[1] a report on the implementation of that resolution and to submit it to the Assembly for consideration at its sixty-third session. The Assembly further called upon the organizations of the United Nations system to continue to provide policy advice and technical assistance to the Governments of the countries with economies in transition in order to strengthen their social, legal and political frameworks so as to enable them to complete the necessary market-oriented reforms. An updated report of the activities of the United Nations system in pursuance of these goals, based on contributions from 17 funds, agencies and organizations of the United Nations system as well as other relevant international institutions, is available from the United Nations website at http://www.un.org/esa/policy.

3. The present report is an overview of the progress made in the integration of the countries with economies in transition into the world economy during the period 2006-2007. Several countries have advanced in transforming themselves into well-functioning market economies and have become new States members of the European Union (EU).[2] Other economies in transition in South-Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) still grapple with an unfinished agenda of market-oriented reforms and problems with respect to their integration into the world economy. In recent years, these economies have rebounded strongly from the deep contraction of economic activity at the beginning of the transition. Their strong growth performance has been helped by a buoyant world economy, high commodity prices and progress in reforms. The pattern of this growth, however, remains insufficiently diversified, limiting the potential benefits that could accrue to the region from full integration into the world economy. The major challenge for these countries, with variations in degree among them, is how to broaden their growth base and sustain high growth in the medium term. This report summarizes the relevant policy issues and strategies for the transition economies with respect to encouraging investment, including FDI; strengthening trade

[1] The Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat organized an expert group meeting in cooperation with the Economic Commission for Europe on "Strengthening integration of the economies in transition into the world economy through economic diversification", which was held in Geneva from 2 to 4 April 2008. For more details on its programme and participants and the papers presented, see http://www.un.org/esa/policy/eitagenda.html.

[2] As a result of the EU enlargements in 2004 and 2007, 10 countries from Central and Eastern Europe and the Baltic States are no longer considered part of the economies in transition. Since that time, the countries with economies in transition have included the countries in South-Eastern Europe (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

linkages; improving the business environment so as to advance market reforms; and increasing investment in human capital. Special attention is paid to the policy challenges faced by the smaller States members of CIS and major impediments to growth and poverty reduction in these countries are outlined.

II. Trends and patterns in economic, trade and investment developments in 2006-2007

A. Macroeconomic trends[3]

4. In 2006, strong world economic growth, robust trade and low costs of international financing supported growth in these economies, while high commodity prices for oil and gas reinforced their integration into the world economy. The spillover effects of the energy boom in the oil-exporting countries led to increased trade and labour migration in the region, particularly in CIS. Despite a subsequent shift from a generally positive international environment in 2006 to less favourable economic conditions starting in mid-2007 in the form of a global slowdown, uncertainties related to the financial turmoil, and soaring energy and food prices, the economies in transition have continued to expand. The aggregate gross domestic product (GDP) of these economies grew at 8.4 per cent in 2007, extending a robust growth performance sustained since the year 2000 (figure I). Not only has this most recent growth momentum been the highest since the start of the transition process, but it has also been spread ubiquitously throughout the two subgroups of the economies in transition, namely, South-Eastern Europe and CIS (table 1). The credit crunch linked to problems in the financial markets of the United States of America has thus far mainly been felt in developed economies, but some economies in transition, such as Kazakhstan, have also been affected. Both slower world trade growth and tightening credit conditions likely will affect growth in the economies in transition in the coming years.

5. Strong output growth contributed to some improvement in the labour markets of the economies in transition. However, in spite of the revitalization of certain industries and noticeable growth in services, unemployment rates remain stubbornly high in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia. This problem is compounded further by the widespread structural nature of unemployment, as many job seekers have been without employment for long periods and there is a growing discrepancy between demand and supply for certain labour skills. This job market mismatch can constrain further technological upgrading of production capacities and limit a more dynamic economic integration process. In CIS, unemployment rates continue to decline owing largely to the expanding construction and service sectors in some countries such as the Russian Federation and Kazakhstan. Nonetheless, employment growth lags well behind output growth in these countries.

6. In 2006-2007, inflationary pressure emerged in the economies in transition owing to higher energy prices, expanding consumer credit and increases in real

[3] A detailed analysis of the current economic situation and prospects in the world economy, including the economies in transition, is presented in *World Economic Situation and Prospects 2008* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.08.II.C.2).

wages in both South-Eastern Europe and CIS (table 1). This inflationary pressure is unlikely to abate in the short term, as the upward trend in food and energy prices, as well as the liberalization of utility prices, is likely to continue.

7. Upward pressure on the national currency of many countries in both South-Eastern Europe and CIS continued to build on the back of strong remittances, FDI and oil export revenues. This has reduced the competitiveness of domestic producers, further constraining the potential export diversification.

B. Integration through trade

8. The economies in transition have seen robust export growth driven by the ongoing liberalization of trade regimes[4] and strong external demand for, as well as higher prices of, the main export commodities of the region such as oil, gas, metals and cotton (table 2). On the import side, robust demand for investment goods and buoyant household expenditures continued to underpin solid growth, helped further by the effect of currency appreciation in many countries.

9. While export growth in South-Eastern Europe has been strong in recent years, it remains below its potential (figure II). At present, most of the exports from South-Eastern Europe belong to low- and medium-skilled and labour-intensive categories, which does not fully reflect the region's endowment of human capital. This has been partially due to the effects of the brain drain resulting from emigration and the "brain waste" arising from the fact that workers are being employed in jobs well below their actual skill level. Moreover, the deindustrialization that took place in the early years of the transition led to trade specialization in less sophisticated products where a competitive edge could be found, with foreign firms investing initially mainly in services and other businesses unable to compete in world markets. Consequently, for these countries to make full use of their export potential in a sustained way, their manufacturing sector needs to encompass increasingly higher value added segments of the product chain.

10. In CIS, both export volumes and values showed high and relatively stable growth rates owing largely to the continued robust expansion of the energy sectors in the resource-rich countries (table 2). This strong export performance is also reflected in the share of exports from these economies in world markets, which has been growing steadily for seven years in a row. However, despite a continued surge in oil exports in Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan, the region saw stagnating growth in the volume of exports in 2007, largely reflecting flattening oil output in the Russian Federation, the largest economy and largest supplier of oil and gas in the region.

11. While about 60 per cent of CIS exports go to developed economies, exports to developing countries are increasing rapidly owing to strong demand for primary commodities, especially from China.[5] After a significant drop at the beginning of the transition, intra-CIS trade recovered somewhat and expanded further in 2007, reflecting adjustments in the prices for oil and gas used in trade among CIS (table 2). A large share of exports consists of primary products, and this share has

[4] For an overview of the progress made in the integration of economies in transition into the world economy by 2006, see the previous report (A/61/269).

[5] For an assessment of trade links between CIS and China, see *World Economic Situation and Prospects 2008*, box II.1 entitled "Increased trade linkages between the Commonwealth of Independent States and China".

continued to increase since 1996. By contrast, the export share of both medium-technology products, including automotive, processing and engineering products, and that of low-technology products has declined (table 3), while exports of high-technology products remain at a low level. The nature of export concentration varies across CIS: some countries are heavily dependent on exports of fuel and fuel products, while others rely on exports of mining products, agricultural products or light manufactures such as textiles. Furthermore, it is important to note that the pattern of trade of CIS with EU differs significantly from trade among the CIS countries: exports to EU mainly consist of primary commodities, while exports of machinery, electrical goods and transport equipment dominate intra-CIS trade.

C. Integration through capital flows and labour migration

12. The economies in transition have shown diverse patterns of FDI inflows in recent years (see table 4). In South-Eastern Europe, FDI inflows increased in 2006-2007, as did the number of greenfield projects financed by FDI. In 2006, Serbia attracted a record net FDI inflow of $4.3 billion, as foreign companies made acquisitions in the telecommunication, finance and manufacturing sectors. In 2007, about $3.8 billion dollars of FDI went to Croatia, and Montenegro received about 1 billion euros in FDI, although half of that went into real estate. FDI flows in South-Eastern Europe helped to upgrade the food, steelmaking and transportation industries, and flows into the financial sector contributed to greater competition in banking. However, more significant inflows of greenfield FDI will be needed to foster technological modernization of manufacturing industries. This applies in particular to Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, where the level of FDI remains relatively low and the strong reliance on hosting outward processing activities in metals, textiles and other labour-intensive industries continues. If the countries of South-Eastern Europe manage to create an environment more favourable to attracting greenfield FDI into export-oriented sectors and strengthen linkages between export sectors and domestic economic activity, they may be able to follow in the footsteps of the new EU member States by integrating into the production structures and distribution networks of EU and to dynamize the reindustrialization of their economies (see sect. III).

13. The continued surge of oil prices, coupled with the macroeconomic stability over the recent period, has driven greater FDI inflows into the resource-rich countries of CIS. In 2006, inward FDI increased significantly to a level twice as high as that in the previous year, reflecting strong inflows into the Russian Federation, Kazakhstan and Ukraine. FDI inflows into the Russian Federation reached a record $32 billion, followed by another surge to $52 billion in 2007. In contrast, FDI fell initially in Ukraine partly owing to the reduction in privatization-related FDI, but jumped in the following year. Despite new restrictions on FDI in some of the members of CIS, in particular in the oil and gas sectors, the energy sector continues to attract most FDI inflows. Recently, services attracted FDI as well, boosted by growing incomes in the region.

14. Migration from the South-Eastern European countries to EU has been substantial. About 10 per cent of the population had been displaced by regional conflicts in the early 1990s, and this was followed by economic migration in subsequent years. For example, about 15 per cent of Albanians currently live in foreign countries, and that share may be as high as 30 per cent for Bosnia and

Herzegovina. Estimates of the number citizens of South-Eastern Europe working in EU vary from 0.5 million to 1.0 million. The migrants are mostly engaged in unskilled occupations in their destination countries, working in agriculture, construction or services. The remittances sent by migrant workers are high as a share of GDP in Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina and help to finance consumption in those countries, but they appear to be less important for Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (table 5).

15. In CIS, disparities in the level of economic development (see sect. IV), demographic trends and uncertainties about economic prospects, combined with shifts in labour demand, are key factors driving large migration flows. The Russian Federation is attracting the highest absolute number of international migrants (it ranks second worldwide after the United States of America) and inflows (mostly from CIS) continue to increase (table 6). Ukraine and Kazakhstan also attract substantial numbers of workers from within the region. For the countries of origin, worker remittances have increased significantly and have reached a level where they constitute a large share of GDP, as is the case, for example, for Tajikistan, Moldova, Kyrgyzstan and Armenia (table 5). For the low-income CIS countries, remittances constitute an important source of finance for consumption and poverty reduction.

16. In sum, the economies in transition have strengthened their integration into the world economy, although in most cases this has also reinforced their reliance on exports of a few primary commodities or low value added manufactures. Consequently, policy interventions are needed to promote a broader-based output mix, thereby enhancing the potential to gain from further integration into the world economy. However, in many countries in South-Eastern Europe and CIS, there is still a need to complete market reforms and strengthen institutional frameworks, as these will be a prerequisite for the successful implementation of economic diversification policies.

III. Policies to stimulate economic diversification

A. Macroeconomic policies

17. A stable macroeconomic environment is needed for effective economic diversification. After an extended period of persistently high inflation, large budget and trade deficits and mounting external debts incurred from the onset of the transition, more recently the countries in South-Eastern Europe and CIS have been able to create more stable and predictable macroeconomic conditions. However, the re-emergence of inflationary pressures in the second half of 2007 has put macroeconomic stability at risk again (see sect. II). In view of the uncertainties related to volatile world prices, prudent fiscal and monetary policies are needed in these countries in order to ensure an environment conducive to investment-driven growth.

18. Managing exchange rates at competitive levels and reining in inflation is a challenge for many of the economies in transition. In South-Eastern Europe, exchange rates either are fixed or closely trace the euro. In CIS countries, the surge in workers' remittances, FDI inflows and export revenues continues to put upward pressure on their real exchange rates. As the monetary authorities in CIS possess few effective instruments for sterilizing excess liquidity, this is creating difficulties

in keeping inflation under control while at the same time maintaining a competitive exchange rate. In this context, the establishment of fiscal stabilization funds based on oil revenues in Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation has proved useful in absorbing excess liquidity.

B. Economic restructuring and improving the business environment

19. The progress in the integration of the economies in transition into the world economy has been accompanied by deeper economic restructuring and improvement of the business climate in many of them. Key market reforms, including domestic price liberalization, privatization of small-sized public enterprises (often labelled small-scale privatization) and the liberalization of trade and foreign-exchange markets, were completed in most countries during the first phase of the transition. However, both the South-Eastern European and CIS countries still confront an unfinished agenda for implementing privatization of large State-owned enterprises (large-scale privatization) and broader financial sector reforms. While this varies across countries, there is also a need for further improvement of institutional frameworks, stimulus of market competition, regulation of the banking sector, and establishment of more transparent intellectual and other property rights.[6]

20. In South-Eastern Europe, market-oriented reforms have continued, largely with the support of EU. The signing of Stabilization and Association Agreements with EU by Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia, and the earlier expansion of the Central European Free Trade Agreement, have imposed certain obligations on the countries in the region, in particular in areas such as trade liberalization and competition policy. In 2006-2007, some progress was achieved in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in public enterprise restructuring. Montenegro completed its process of trade liberalization and Serbia took on large-scale privatizations. However, most countries show deficits in the area of competition policy (table 7).

21. In CIS, price controls have been lifted further and progress has been made with small-scale privatization projects. Azerbaijan and Armenia completed their privatization programmes in 2006-2007. As a result, the number of countries with a private sector share of more than 75 per cent of GDP increased to 5 out of 12 (table 8). Although reforms have slowed in most countries in this region, a significant expansion of foreign banks in Ukraine and Moldova is expected to increase competition in this sector. Like the South-Eastern Europe countries, however, the CIS countries did not manage to improve their competition policies and infrastructure reforms (table 7).

22. The role of the State in fostering economic changes in the economies in transition is evolving from that of a direct participant to that of a regulator of economic activity. The major component of this new role entails building new institutional structures and improving the quality of institutions, including the judiciary, public administration, health care, and the pension system, as well as labour markets, the banking system, and competition policy, along with establishing

[6] For an overview of the progress of reforms in countries with economies in transition in 2006-2007, see European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, *Transition Report 2007: People in Transition* (London, November 2007).

effective bankruptcy procedures. These new functions require relevant policy interventions in order to facilitate the successful implementation of diversification strategies.

C. Role of the European Union in integrating economies in transition

23. From the early 1990s, active policies of EU towards its Eastern neighbours and a series of association agreements played a decisive role in effecting stronger integration of the countries in Central and Eastern Europe with the EU economy. These policies have led to the accession of 10 new EU members.[7] Since its most recent enlargement in January 2007, when Bulgaria and Romania joined the Union, EU has been focusing its enlargement policy on a number of countries in South-Eastern Europe. In parallel, EU continues to develop active policies towards the Union's new immediate neighbours, including a number of countries in CIS, within the framework of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP), in order to create an area of stability and good neighbourhood relations.

24. The relations of EU with the countries of South-Eastern Europe developed within the framework of the Stabilization and Association Process, launched in 2000. Since then, Croatia and the former Republic of Macedonia have been granted candidate country status for EU membership, and negotiations with Croatia are in progress. All other countries of the region are also viewed as potential candidates for EU membership. EU has repeatedly reiterated its commitment to their eventual accession provided they are ready to meet all necessary criteria and to undertake the obligations of membership.

25. All countries in the region have concluded Stabilization and Association Agreements with EU, the most recent ones having been signed by Montenegro in 2007 and Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2008. The key component of these very comprehensive agreements is economic cooperation, which is expected to play a crucial role in external trade, investment flows and the business environment of the South-Eastern Europe countries. Although the implementation of these agreements in areas such as State aid to the production sectors and the adoption of European standards may create some difficulties, it is expected to be beneficial in the long run. EU is also pursuing regional development by actively supporting the revitalization of the region's road and railway infrastructure.

26. The European Union provides assistance to candidate and potential candidate countries through a unified financial instrument, the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA), which replaced the earlier EU programmes for candidate countries in order that the assistance process might be streamlined and an overlapping among its different components might be avoided. This instrument provides assistance both to candidate countries and to potential candidates. In addition, EU is seeking an intensified cooperation with the European Investment Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and other financial institutions with respect to investing in private sector development and infrastructure of the South-Eastern Europe countries. About 11.5 billion euros are allocated for pre-accession assistance in the EU-budget cycle of 2007-2013.

[7] For an overview, see A/61/269.

27. To promote further integration with the economies that are beyond its borders, including a number of countries in CIS,[8] EU continued to develop its European Neighbourhood Policy. The key component of the policy entails a significant degree of economic integration, including proposals of free trade in goods and services, free movement of capital and, potentially in the longer run, even free movement of people. In 2006-2007, the European Neighbourhood Policy was enhanced to provide more incentives to partner countries. In addition, following expiration of its Partnership and Cooperation Agreement, EU is currently negotiating a new comprehensive agreement of cooperation with the Russian Federation.

28. The European Union prepared individual action plans for each of the European Neighbourhood Policy partners, focusing on areas such as political dialogue, rule of law, economic reform, trade regimes, openness of service markets, and protection of intellectual property rights and standards. In May 2008, EU introduced plans to upgrade relations with some of the European Neighbourhood Policy countries, including Ukraine and Moldova. Both countries have been granted autonomous trade preferences by EU, and in February 2008, Ukraine started negotiations on a free trade area with EU. EU also launched a feasibility study on free trade agreements with Armenia and Georgia. In addition, EU also adopted a Regional Strategy Paper (RSP), covering Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and the Russian Federation. Since some of the challenges faced by the region are of a cross-border nature, the Regional Strategy Paper strongly encourages regional cooperation among the partner countries. EU envisages spending 11.2 billion euros through the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) in 2007-2013. A new fund, the Neighbourhood Investment Facility (NIF), was launched in May 2008 in order to mobilize additional funding, mainly for projects in the energy, environment and transport sectors of the European Neighbourhood Policy countries.

D. Multilateral and regional trade integration

29. Further integration of the economies in transition into the multilateral trading system and wider regional trade cooperation could promote economic diversification through the strengthening of trade and FDI linkages of these countries with different partners in higher-income markets. However, trade liberalization alone may not lead to the emergence of new activities and dynamic sectors in these economies. To make use of integration effects as a source for upgrading their production base, these economies need to implement complementary domestic policies to foster diversification.

30. Currently 8 out of 18 economies in transition are part of the multilateral trading system through their membership of the World Trade Organization. Ukraine joined the organization most recently (table 9). The remaining countries, with the exception of Turkmenistan, are in the process of accession. Bilateral negotiations on markets access have advanced for several countries, contributing to the harmonization of domestic legislation and commercial practices and advances in the reforms of the custom code and the tariff system in some countries, such as Montenegro, the Russian Federation and Kazakhstan. However, to advance further with the World Trade Organization accession process, countries will have to

[8] These include Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine.

implement additional market-enhancing reforms and strengthen their cooperation with current World Trade Organization members.

31. Multilateral integration initiatives, such as the accessions to EU and the World Trade Organization, help to lock in institutional reforms in the economies in transition; and for the countries that are not aspiring to become EU members, the World Trade Organization supports a predictable environment for trade policies and investment-related activities. However, a lack of negotiation skills may slow down the accession process or fail to yield outcomes in line with country needs and preferences despite the flexibility of this process. United Nations organizations could assist, where needed, to enhance country expertise in trade negotiations.

32. Regional economic integration agreements, compatible with World Trade Organization rules, may also support trade expansion and economic diversification. A series of free trade agreements among South-Eastern Europe countries led to lower tariffs and the harmonization of trade rules. The Central European Free Trade Agreement expanded its membership in 2006 to include Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania, Montenegro, Serbia and Moldova. The agreement has consolidated (by replacing) a large network of bilateral free trade agreements, creating a free-trade area with regulations compatible with EU and World Trade Organization rules. The Central European Free Trade Agreement covers areas beyond trade, including rules regarding non-discriminatory treatment of investments, State aid to the production sectors, procurement and product standards. The agreement also offers a dispute settlement mechanism. A gradual elimination of tariffs on industrial products has been agreed within the Central European Free Trade Agreement, but the issue of reducing tariffs on agricultural products remains politically sensitive. Although the tariffs are currently low, on average about 4 per cent for industrial products, trade is hampered by widespread non-tariff barriers, including persisting differences in the application of regulations regarding technical, sanitary and phytosanitary standards, problems related to certification, and numerous documents and licences required for customs administration. Boosting trade within the Central European Free Trade Agreement may mitigate dependence on trade with EU and increase the potential for diversification.

33. Regional integration among the CIS countries continued through a variety of free trade agreements, such as the CIS Free Trade Agreement, the Eurasian Economic Community (EurAsEC) and the Central Asian Cooperation Organization. Among these, the Eurasian Economic Community has the potential to become a driving force for regional integration, provided transport, communication and energy linkages are further developed to support exchange of goods and services. Uzbekistan joined the Community in 2006. Member States are working towards a deepening of economic cooperation through the creation of a common free-market zone including services, establishment of a customs union, formation of a common transport zone, creation of a common energy zone, establishment of a common financial market and further cooperation in the socio-humanitarian area. Many economies in CIS could benefit from further regional integration, as it would help diversify their product base through the facilitation of trade in goods with medium- and high-technology content. Regional integration is especially important for the small, landlocked and low-income countries in this region.[9]

[9] See United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, *Trade and Development Report 2007* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.07.II.D.11).

34. Promoting trade in services creates a favourable background for the effective functioning of all other industries. This concerns in particular business support services, such as communication, advertising and distribution. In this regard, further development of the telecommunications infrastructure is needed in most countries in these regions (table 10). Many services in South-Eastern Europe and in some CIS countries are already liberalized and attract significant inflows of FDI, but there is scope for further expansion following a strengthening of market institutions and more general improvements in the investment climate.

35. In order to facilitate market access for export industries, Governments of the economies in transition need to support export promotion agencies and develop appropriate strategies to allow businesses to obtain better information about market opportunities. Examples of such efforts in the region are represented by the Serbia Investment and Export Promotion Agency (SIEPA) and Croatia's national export promotion strategy, called the Croatian Export Offensive, aiming to increase the number of companies in the export sector and to change the structure of exports by targeting specific sectors through support to private businesses.

E. Policies promoting foreign direct investment

36. FDI flows have proved to be an important channel for the integration of the economies in transition into the world economy. For the new EU member States, these have also played an important role in shifting their economic structures towards sectors with higher value added products. Although a variety of special incentives have been implemented in the latter countries to attract foreign investors, FDI seems to respond more strongly to improvements in the overall investment climate of the country. Hence, FDI promotion needs to be embedded in a broader policy framework. This should also include policies that help strengthen linkages between foreign firms and domestic production sectors in order to enhance the positive effects of FDI in economies in transition.[10]

37. The policy challenge for South-Eastern Europe is to attract new FDI now that most countries have completed the process of privatization of State enterprises. To this end, improving regulatory frameworks and legislation will be important. During 2006-2007, there was some progress in tax legislation, custom laws, regulation of land property and construction permits, strengthening of the judiciary and resolution of commercial disputes. Many regulations were eliminated or simplified in the region, in particular in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia, with the burden of inspections, for example, significantly reduced. However, licensing and permitting processes need to be improved further. The process of registering a business, although significantly shortened, still requires far too many days for completion by EU standards.

38. Regional integration will be crucial in strengthening FDI flows and their benefits. FDI agglomeration effects appear when there is an adequate infrastructure and relatively free intraregional trade. The regional approach is also important for the economies in transition in South-Eastern Europe and the smaller and low-income members of CIS because of the small size of domestic markets and the need

[10] See *World Economic and Social Survey 2006: Diverging Growth and Development* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.06.II.C.1).

to create local supply chains and backward and forward linkages. One of the components of the Stability Pact for South-eastern Europe, the Investment Compact, was designed to encourage the countries concerned to adopt such a regional approach to foreign investment; and those countries agreed to work, for example, in the direction of unifying registration and approval procedures for domestic and foreign firms, facilitating acquisition of real estate for FDI and minimizing requirements on reporting.

39. FDI inflows to CIS have been relatively weak until recently, mirroring the unfinished agenda of market-enhancing reforms in areas such as regulation and competition policy in its economies. Recent progress in privatization projects, for example, in Ukraine and in the natural resource sector in CIS, has attracted greater FDI inflows. FDI into the Russian Federation more than doubled in 2007. During 2006-2007, resource-rich economies such as the Russian Federation, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan introduced measures limiting FDI in strategic industries. In the Russian Federation, these measures were followed by the introduction in May 2008 of a new law on foreign investment in strategic sectors. This defines the specific authorization procedures that apply to foreign investments in 42 sectors considered to be of strategic importance for the country, including oil and gas, nuclear energy, fisheries, defence, aviation and mass communication. From the point of view of establishing clear rules and procedures, the law may trigger a positive response from foreign investors, as it reduces uncertainty. At the same time, however, the transparency of some of the provisions in the new rules has been questioned, as there are concerns whether the stricter conditions for the energy sector will not deter foreign investment in this sector.

40. In 2006-2007, the business climate for foreign investors in non-oil sectors improved in several of the CIS countries. In the case of Ukraine, this improvement was the result of harmonizing the country's legislation with World Trade Organization norms prior to its accession, while in the Russian Federation, progress was linked to some legislation regarding intellectual property rights and access of foreigners to the banking system. Foreign investors expanded their activities in Kazakhstan's financial market as a response to a new law on securities markets; and in the case of Kyrgyzstan, there was some positive response by foreign investors to the introduction of a 10 per cent flat tax substituting a previous corporate tax of 20 per cent.

F. Investing in human capital, migration policies and mobilizing remittances for investment

41. To proceed further in the integration of their economies into the world economy and increase the benefits of this process, economies in transition need to increase spending on higher education, vocational training and continuous skills upgrading. In addition to subsidizing basic education policies that provide fiscal incentives such as education credits, tax incentives for the private sector to invest in human capital development are of particular importance for the economies in transition.

42. With migration growing, its labour-market, political and social implications are becoming an increasing challenge. For the recipient countries, such as the Russian Federation and Ukraine, migration is helping to lift some labour supply

constraints. In contrast, in the countries of origin, emigration of workers is starting to act as a constraint on economic diversification. Migration policies therefore need to be tailored towards the country's labour-markets conditions. The policy challenge for the countries with large migration outflows is to provide incentives to workers with relevant education and skills either to stay in the country or to return home. Both in South-Eastern Europe and CIS, serious attention should be paid to the fight against human trafficking and measures to better protect the rights of migrant workers.

43. Most of the remittances flowing into the economies of transition are used for private consumption. In order to ensure that a greater share of remittances is available for the financing of productive investment, recipients could be given incentives to deposit remittances into bank accounts. To achieve this, there is a need to reduce transaction costs of transfers, to further develop banking systems (for example, the banks of recipient countries could open affiliates in the source country) and to offer more non-banking services for transfers.

IV. Special challenges for the smaller member countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States

44. The smaller member countries of CIS, including the low-income countries Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, as well as the lower middle income countries Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkmenistan, suffered a deeper and more prolonged transitional recession than other economies in transition. While the quality of public services severely deteriorated during the downturn and social expenditures were drastically reduced, there has been a strong economic recovery in recent years and in a number of countries, this continued growth has made up for the income loss suffered during the initial period of transition. However, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova and Tajikistan have not seen a return of their per capita GDP to pre-transition levels (figure III). Moreover, the strong economic performance in recent years has been based on output growth in just a few primary commodities, leaving income growth highly vulnerable to external shocks. In addition, delays in economic restructuring reforms have left these countries with a lack of infrastructure, little interest on the part of foreign investors, a lower level of human capital development and weaker institutional development. Economic insecurity and the high investment requirements in these lower-income countries make economic diversification a daunting challenge.

45. Regional cooperation is particularly important for promoting economic diversification of the smaller economies in CIS, as it will increase the effective size of their markets and can facilitate attracting more foreign investments outside the natural resource sector. In respect of gaining from such integration effects, the policy challenge in the region is to work on harmonizing standards and regulations as well as to improve trade and transit arrangements.

46. Except for Georgia, all of these economies are landlocked countries. Inadequacies in their transportation infrastructure, besides administrative obstacles to cross-border trade, therefore constitute a major obstacle to economic diversification and integration. However, low public investments in infrastructure and political conflicts over cross-border arrangements have discouraged intraregional trade and investments. These factors have led to high transportation

costs and high costs of holding substantial inventories caused by irregular supplies, significantly eroding competitiveness. Access to international markets is also hampered by other obstacles, including excessive documentation requirements, delays at border crossings, unofficial payments and unexpected closures of borders. To make cross-border economic traffic more efficient, these countries need to improve their transportation infrastructure, reform customs procedures and improve inter-agency coordination and cross-border cooperation.[11] Also, new investments in the energy sector need to be accelerated, as significant bottlenecks in electricity supply threaten economic growth in some countries. This will require a substantial increase in public investment for which limited domestic resources are available. Public-private partnerships in infrastructure provisioning may help supplement limited Government resources, in addition to external funding from multilateral development banks (namely, the World Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the Asian Development Bank).

47. Human capital is another important ingredient for diversifying growth in the smaller member States of CIS and, in more general terms, it becomes a prerequisite for accelerated development in these countries by reducing poverty. Access to schooling is, in general, not the major problem in these countries: school enrolment rates in primary and secondary education are 90 per cent or higher. However, there have been new negative trends of declining enrolment rates in primary education and decreasing literacy rates among 14- to 24-year-olds in the last five years in some countries such as Kyrgyzstan. Concerns are also related to the deteriorating quality of schooling and the weak capacity of the education system to provide training in skills required for the adaptation to new technologies and modern services, including tourism. Improving the quality of education and teaching curricula will help underpin economic policies stimulating a shift towards higher-productivity production activities.

48. Poverty rates have decreased in these economies on the back of their strong economic performance in recent years. The incidence of extreme poverty in CIS at large — the proportion of people living below $1 a day — has declined sharply, from 5.5 to about 0.6 per cent since the start of transition. Poverty reduction, however, remains unevenly spread across countries. Against national poverty lines, poverty in Azerbaijan declined from 45 to 16 per cent for the period 2003-2007; in Kyrgyzstan, it fell from 43 to 36 per cent between 2003 and 2005; and in Moldova, extreme poverty fell from 16 to 5 per cent between 2005 and 2006. Despite significant poverty reduction in recent years, the World Bank estimates that it is still uncertain whether the Millennium Development Goal target of halving extreme poverty by 2015 will be met in Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Poverty is particularly widespread in Tajikistan, the poorest country in the group, with 60 per cent of the population living on less than $2.15 per day. In most smaller member countries of CIS, agricultural output dropped drastically at the beginning of the transition and has recovered only very slowly since. As a result, much of the rural population has been trapped in poverty. The deterioration of agriculture is threatening food security in these countries and the surge in world food prices is driving up inflation and hurting the poor. Poverty reduction will

[11] ECE and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) have identified a series of recommendations to strengthen transport linkages in the Euro-Asian regions. For more details, see ECE and ESCAP, "Joint study on developing Euro-Asian transport linkages", February 2008 (ECE/TRANS/184).

therefore depend critically on the promotion of agricultural and rural development. Promoting agriculture and agro-industries should involve providing incentives and improving infrastructure to strengthen production linkages over the entire supply chain. Poverty reduction will be best served by targeting support to small farmholders.

49. The share of women in unemployment is relatively high in the region, having reached 50 per cent in some countries such as Kyrgyzstan, while their wages tend to be much lower on average than those of men. Consequently, policies aiming at economic diversification should also promote employment opportunities for women and men alike and reduce wage discrimination.

50. Strong economic performance and prudent fiscal policies over several years helped the smaller member countries of CIS reduce their external debt burden (figure IV). In 2005-2007, this trend continued in those countries with the exception of Moldova, where GDP growth was not sufficient to stop the debt-to-GDP ratio from increasing. After a restructuring of this country's external debt to the Paris Club in May 2006, debt-service obligations declined but the level of external debt remains high. Continued official donor assistance and grants from the Millennium Challenge Cooperation should ease the need to borrow from abroad to finance investment projects in education, health and infrastructure. At the beginning of 2007, the authorities in Kyrgyzstan decided not to seek debt relief under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative. Instead of being reduced, the external debt burden had increased further by the end of 2007 and the risk of debt distress is likely to remain high in the medium term. Nonetheless, debt-servicing obligations are currently manageable thanks to the rescheduling of the debt that Kyrgyzstan owes to the Paris Club and to the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development. Demand for external borrowing is likely to stay high given the need of the low-income CIS countries to finance large public investment projects and to cover the costs of social protection mechanisms required to insulate the most vulnerable population groups from rising food prices. Adequate debt management mechanisms will have to be put in place to avert debt distress and possible macroeconomic instability as well as crowding out of necessary development spending in the long term.

51. Overall, policy challenges faced by the smaller members of CIS encompass a wide range of development goals and reform areas. However, these countries have limited resources of their own for dealing with these challenges simultaneously, and in this regard, will need the support of the international community.

V. Policy challenges and conclusions

52. **High prices for primary commodities and increased capital inflows have supported robust growth in output and trade in the economies in South-Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States in recent years. However, the weakening of the global economy since mid-2007 due to the global financial turmoil and the food crisis has started to affect economic performance, especially in the more vulnerable smaller economies in transition. Economic vulnerability is closely linked to limited diversification of domestic production sectors and high dependence on a few export commodities of low value added content. With respect to ensuring their sustained economic growth,**

a major challenge for those countries is to promote economic diversification and upgrade their production to higher value added activities, thereby reducing their exposure to the volatility of world markets.

53. Progress regarding further integration of the economies in transition into the world economy through FDI has in many cases supported the upgrading of domestic production capacities. Despite the recent significant increase in FDI inflows to these countries, more investment is required into both industries and the infrastructure of the regions, so as to revitalize their industrial capacity and to diversify their output and export base. To attract more FDI, however, economies in transition need to continue focusing on systemic and market-enhancing reforms, institutions able to support markets, legal and regulatory systems designed to promote competition, intellectual and property rights, the rule of law, good governance and financial services.

54. Given the current concentration of their output and trade in the primary sector, the challenge faced by the CIS countries is to strengthen their industrial capacity for the processing of their natural resources. At the same time, agricultural development strategies should seek not only improvement in productivity, but also a strengthening of food-processing activities. This is especially relevant for the low-income and lower middle income CIS countries. This shift to higher value added activities should be feasible, as there is no constraint on technology and product upgrading in these processing stages. To this end, there is an active role for Governments to play in mobilizing domestic resources as well as in ensuring the efficient use of international financing, especially in the low-income economies.

55. The South-Eastern Europe countries face multiple challenges with respect to enhancing their gains from further integration into the world economy. Regional cooperation within the context of the Central European Free Trade Agreement and the Regional Cooperation Council needs to be strengthened and non-tariff barriers need to be eliminated in order to boost intraregional trade. In addition, market access for exports needs to be enhanced through active World Trade Organization-compatible export promotion activities and completion of World Trade Organization accession, while further export and output diversification will require attracting more FDI inflows and the upgrading of physical infrastructure. Further integration into European markets will be helped by the adoption of European and international standards and further harmonizing of those countries' legislation with that of EU.

56. Those economies in transition negotiating their World Trade Organization membership need continued assistance in their accession process. Organizations such as the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the World Trade Organization might assist in evaluating the potential impact of World Trade Organization accession, and preparing negotiation strategies, offers on market access and information on agricultural support and all corresponding documentation, as well as training local administrations in the area of trade policy rules. For the current World Trade Organization members, further assistance could be provided on such subjects as how to go about referring a dispute to the World Trade Organization dispute resolution mechanism and the application of anti-dumping measures. It may prove to be

productive to facilitate an exchange of information between the countries that have recently joined the World Trade Organization and those that aspire to join.

57. To improve market access for South-Eastern Europe and CIS, international organizations need to support export and investment promotion activities in the region. Assistance could be provided in securing potential customers and business partners for exporters and in reaching the retail networks in potential markets. Organizations such as UNCTAD and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) could support countries in elaborating both export and investment promotion strategies. In the area of agricultural exports, it is important that high standards of food safety be adopted and maintained. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) may provide valuable assistance in this context as well as with respect to the adoption of phytosanitary standards.

58. Development of infrastructure, including revitalization of regional road and rail networks, is crucial for the successful upgrading of industries and for increasing foreign trade of the economies in transition, particularly the landlocked countries of CIS. This will require adequate resource mobilization, including from the multilateral development banks. Special attention should be given to the further development of telecommunications, as the level of availability and quality of telecommunication services still lags well behind European standards in spite of improvements in the mobile phone networks. In addition, the energy shortages in the region should be addressed. Organizations such as UNCTAD, UNDP and ECE might provide significant assistance in the implementation of relevant projects and, in addition, could facilitate the reduction of cross-border barriers and the implementation of transport and trade agreements.

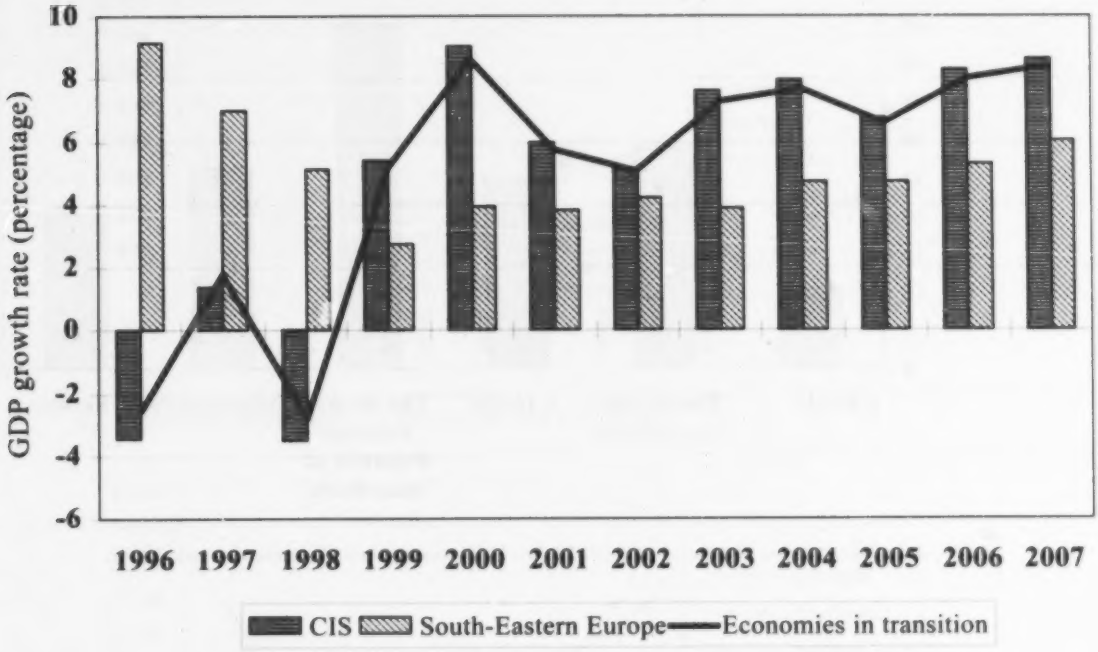
59. The issues of migration and protection of migrant workers need to be addressed and the fight against human trafficking should be intensified, in particular in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. The International Labour Organization (ILO) should continue to provide advice on improving labour migration policies and the protection of the rights of migrant workers and work towards eventual ratification of all relevant conventions by more countries. The further development of banking systems, as well as non-banking transfer services in the region, is needed in order to reduce transaction costs for remittances and to divert flows of funds to official channels. It is also important to encourage policies aimed at channelling those funds into productive investment.

60. Given the differences with regard to the pattern and pace of integration of the economies in transition into international markets, the policy mix needed to promote and support economic diversification will vary by country. However, all of these policies need to be coherent and to engage all of society in order that the long-term goal of sustained high growth rates and higher living standards may be achieved.

Annex

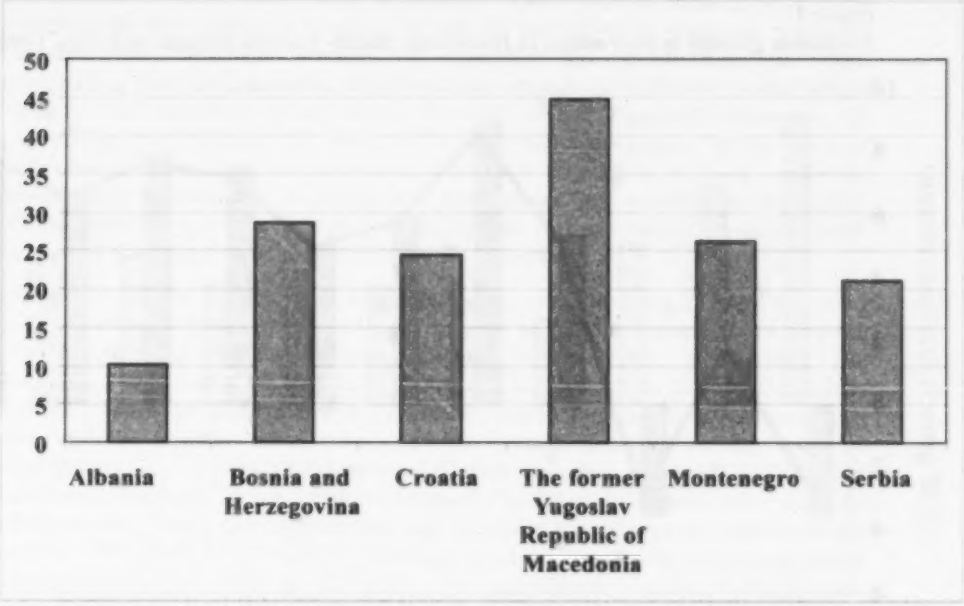
Figures and tables

Figure I
Economic growth in economies in transition, South-Eastern Europe and CIS, 1996-2007



Source: Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat (UN/DESA), based on Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) database.

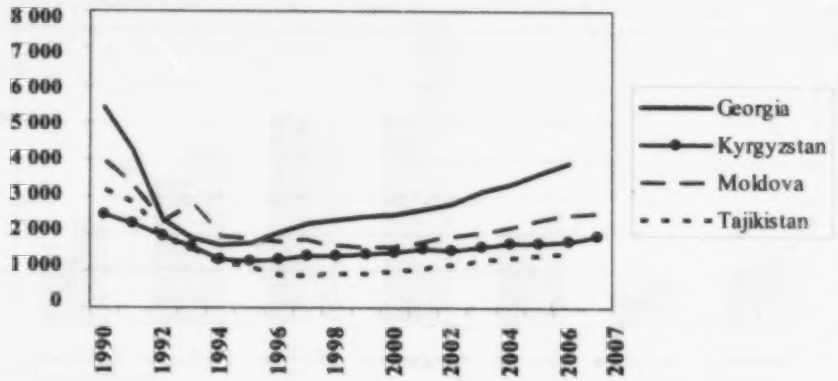
Figure II
Exports of goods as a share of GDP in South-Eastern Europe, 2007
(Percentage)



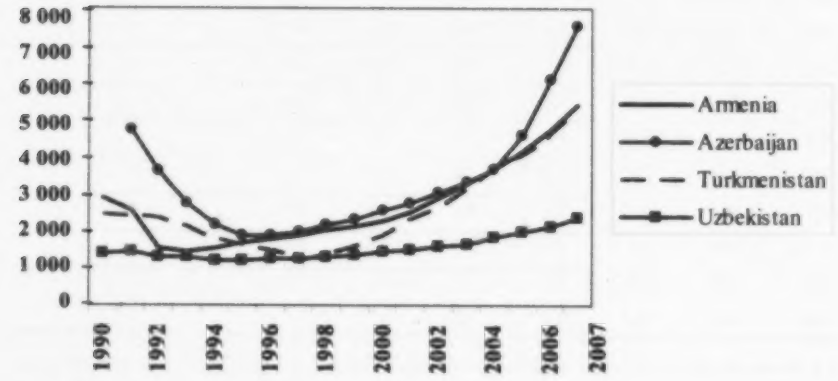
Source: International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Economic Outlook database (April 2008).

Figure III
GDP per capita (purchasing power parities of 2005) in selected CIS countries, 1990-2007

A. Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova and Tajikistan

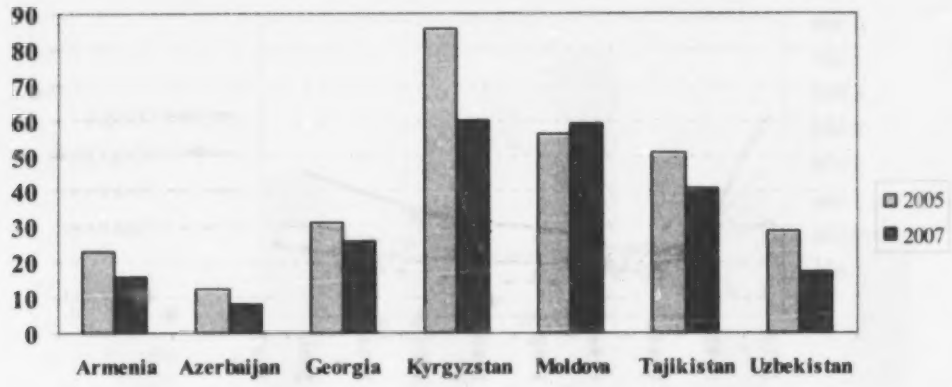


B. Armenia, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan



Sources: ECE; and IMF, World Economic Outlook database (April 2008).

Figure IV
Ratio of external debt to gross domestic product in selected countries of CIS, 2005 and 2007
(Percentage)



Source: IMF, World Economic Outlook database (April 2008).

Table 1
Macroeconomic indicators for economies in transition, 2005, 2006 and 2007

	Growth of real GDP (annual percentage change)			*Consumer price inflation (annual percentage change)*			*Unemployment rate (percentage)*		
	2005	*2006*	*2007*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Economies in transition	6.6	8.0	8.4	11.2	8.9	9.0			
South-Eastern Europe	4.7	5.3	6.0	2.9	3.7	3.0			
Albania	5.8	5.5	6.0	2.4	2.4	2.9	14.1	13.8	13.0
Bosnia and Herzegovina	3.9	6.7	6.0	2.5	6.5	1.5	46.6	47.7	..
Croatia	4.3	4.8	5.6	3.3	3.2	2.9	12.7	11.1	..
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	4.1	4.0	5.0	-0.7	3.3	2.8	37.3	36.0	..
Serbia	6.2	5.7	7.5	16.1	11.7	6.4	20.8	20.9	..
Montenegro	4.2	8.6	6.7	2.6	3.0	4.3	30.3	..	..
Commonwealth of Independent States	6.8	8.3	8.6	12.1	9.5	9.6			
Armenia	13.9	13.3	13.7	0.6	2.9	4.4	7.6	7.2	6.6
Azerbaijan	26.4	34.5	25.1	9.6	8.2	16.6	1.4	1.3	1.2
Belarus	9.4	9.9	8.2	10.4	7.0	8.3	1.5	1.2	1.0
Georgia	9.6	9.4	12.4	8.2	9.2	9.2	13.8	13.6	..
Kazakhstan	9.7	10.7	8.7	7.6	8.6	10.8	8.1	7.8	7.3
Kyrgyzstan	-0.2	3.1	8.2	4.4	5.6	10.2	8.1	8.3	..
Moldova	7.5	4.8	3.0	12.0	12.8	12.4	7.3	7.4	5.1
Russian Federation	6.4	7.4	8.1	12.7	9.7	9.0	7.2	7.2	..
Tajikistan	6.7	6.7	7.8	7.2	10.0	13.4	2.1	2.3	2.5
Turkmenistan	9.0	9.0	8.0	12.0	9.0	6.4	..	..	..
Ukraine	2.7	7.3	7.6	13.5	9.1	12.8	7.2	6.8	6.7
Uzbekistan	7.0	7.3	9.8	8.0	10.5	12.3	0.3	..	..

Sources: UN/DESA, based on data of ECE; Interstate Statistical Committee of CIS (http://www.cisstat.com).
Note: Two dots (..) indicate that data are not available.

Table 2
Foreign trade in economies in transition by direction, 2005, 2006 and 2007

	Exports			*Imports*		
	Value (billions of dollars)	*Growth rate[a] (percentage)*		*Value (billions of dollars)*	*Growth rate[a] (percentage)*	
Country or country group	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Economies in transition, to and from:						
World	346.0	21.4	21.3	225.2	33.7	53.0
Developed market economies	210.9	25.0	13.5	112.9	36.0	58.3
EU-27	183.3	25.9	7.9	93.6	36.6	63.4
EU-15	133.0	27.9	9.6	72.5	34.1	65.9
New EU member States	50.4	20.8	3.2	21.0	45.3	55.4
Economies in transition	63.5	13.1	42.9	68.0	22.0	35.0
Commonwealth of Independent States	59.6	12.1	42.3	65.3	22.3	34.6
Russian Federation	18.3	15.7	29.1	35.9	33.8	24.3
South-Eastern Europe	3.9	28.8	50.3	2.8	16.5	44.3
Developing countries	65.2	18.4	27.3	42.3	47.1	65.0
South-Eastern Europe, to and from:						
World	15.4	7.5	22.1	35.3	2.1	24.0
Developed market economies	10.8	5.0	18.2	25.4	-5.4	19.5
EU-27	10.1	4.7	19.4	23.7	-5.6	20.3
EU-15	7.8	2.3	16.3	17.0	-6.4	22.7
New EU member States	2.3	12.5	29.0	6.7	-3.8	14.5
Economies in transition	2.7	16.2	29.7	5.2	22.9	27.8
Commonwealth of Independent States	0.2	26.5	49.2	2.6	33.1	28.5
Russian Federation	0.1	13.1	71.0	2.3	36.8	29.9
South-Eastern Europe	2.5	15.3	27.9	2.5	12.2	27.0
Developing countries	1.3	-4.8	4.9	4.3	18.1	40.6
CIS countries, to and from:						
World	330.7	22.1	21.2	189.9	39.6	56.9
Developed market economies	200.1	26.1	13.3	87.5	48.0	65.5
EU-27	173.2	27.2	7.3	69.9	51.0	72.5
EU-15	125.2	29.4	9.2	55.6	46.5	74.3
New EU member States	48.1	21.2	2.0	14.3	68.4	66.4
Economies in transition	60.9	13.0	43.5	62.8	22.0	35.6
Commonwealth of Independent States	59.4	12.0	42.3	62.6	21.8	34.9
Russian Federation	18.1	15.7	28.7	33.6	33.6	24.0
South-Eastern Europe	1.4	52.1	79.6	0.2	67.8	181.9
Developing countries	63.9	18.9	27.6	37.9	50.4	67.2

Country or country group	Exports: Value (billions of dollars) 2005	Exports: Growth rate[a] (percentage) 2006	Exports: Growth rate[a] (percentage) 2007	Imports: Value (billions of dollars) 2005	Imports: Growth rate[a] (percentage) 2006	Imports: Growth rate[a] (percentage) 2007
Russian Federation, to and from:						
World	239.3	22.0	18.0	97.4	36.0	79.8
Developed market economies	161.3	26.5	9.1	56.8	40.0	85.7
EU-27	138.7	27.8	1.8	43.9	39.7	101.0
EU-15	100.7	29.3	5.1	36.4	39.3	101.3
New EU member States	38.0	23.7	-7.3	7.5	41.6	99.6
Economies in transition	31.6	8.8	59.2	18.0	-1.6	71.9
Commonwealth of Independent States	30.6	6.4	57.4	17.8	-2.2	69.3
Russian Federation	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
South-Eastern Europe	1.0	84.4	89.4	0.1	91.6	273.2
Developing countries	42.7	16.6	26.8	21.8	57.4	71.7
CIS excluding Russia, to and from:						
World	91.4	22.3	29.7	92.5	43.4	34.1
Developed market economies	38.8	24.4	31.3	30.7	62.7	33.4
EU-27	34.5	24.5	30.0	26.0	70.0	33.0
EU-15	24.5	29.8	26.1	19.1	60.1	29.7
New EU member States	10.1	11.8	40.7	6.8	97.8	40.4
Economies in transition	29.3	17.5	27.8	44.9	31.4	24.7
Commonwealth of Independent States	28.9	18.1	27.8	44.8	31.4	24.7
Russian Federation	18.1	15.7	28.7	33.6	33.6	24.0
South-Eastern Europe	0.4	-22.7	26.1	0.1	37.9	22.9
Developing countries	21.2	23.5	29.3	16.1	40.9	60.6

Source: IMF, International Financial Statistics.

[a] Calculated based on value expressed in dollars.

Table 3
Technological classification of exports, by region and country group, 1996, 2000, 2003 and 2006

		Percentage share of total exports			
		1996	*2000*	*2003*	*2006*
New EU members					
Primary products		10.5	7.4	6.2	7.0
Resource-based manufactures	Agro-based	13.1	9.7	9.4	8.4
	Other	8.3	7.3	6.3	7.8
Low-technology manufactures	Textile, garment and footwear	13.4	10.8	9.5	5.9
	Other products	16.1	14.5	14.7	13.9
Medium-technology manufactures	Automotive	5.9	9.9	10.9	12.1
	Process	9.1	7.0	6.5	6.8
	Engineering	13.5	17.0	19.1	18.8
High-technology manufactures	Electronic and electrical	6.2	12.8	12.9	13.4
	Other	2.5	2.0	2.3	2.5
Others		1.3	1.6	2.3	3.3
Economies in transition					
Primary products		38.2	42.6	43.3	48.4
Resource-based manufactures	Agro-based	7.1	5.6	6.2	5.3
	Other	12.8	14.3	14.3	17.7
Low-technology manufactures	Textile, garment and footwear	2.6	2.6	2.4	1.5
	Other products	6.4	6.2	5.9	5.0
Medium-technology manufactures	Automotive	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.1
	Process	10.8	9.0	9.2	8.7
	Engineering	5.1	5.1	4.4	3.5
High-technology manufactures	Electronic and electrical	1.6	1.5	1.7	1.1
	Other	1.3	2.2	2.5	1.0
Others		13.0	9.6	9.0	6.8
South-Eastern Europe					
Primary products		13.7	12.3	10.9	12.9
Resource-based manufactures	Agro-based	16.0	13.9	13.4	14.7
	Other	9.2	10.8	9.7	12.6
Low-technology manufactures	Textile, garment and footwear	20.7	19.9	20.2	12.6
	Other products	8.6	10.6	10.8	14.4
Medium-technology manufactures	Automotive	1.4	1.3	1.6	1.2
	Process	11.0	8.4	6.6	9.3
	Engineering	12.6	15.2	16.4	13.7
High-technology manufactures	Electronic and electrical	2.8	2.8	5.3	3.8
	Other	3.1	4.1	3.6	2.6
Others		1.0	0.7	1.5	2.2

		Percentage share of total exports			
		1996	2000	2003	2006
CIS					
Primary products		39.9	44.3	44.9	50.4
Resource-based manufactures	Agro-based	6.5	5.1	5.8	4.7
	Other	13.0	14.5	14.6	18.0
Low-technology manufactures	Textile, garment and footwear	1.3	1.7	1.5	0.9
	Other products	6.2	5.9	5.6	4.5
Medium-technology manufactures	Automotive	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.0
	Process	10.8	9.0	9.3	8.6
	Engineering	4.6	4.6	3.8	2.9
High-technology manufactures	Electronic and electrical	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.0
	Other	1.1	2.1	2.5	0.9
Others		13.8	10.1	9.4	7.1

Source: UN/DESA, based on United Nations Commodity Trade Statistics Database (COMTRADE).

Table 4
Net foreign direct investment in economies in transition, 2000-2007

	Cumulative FDI inflows (millions of dollars)	*Cumulative FDI per capita (dollars)*	*FDI inflows as share of GDP (percentage)*		
	2000-2007	*2000-2007*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
New EU members[a]	246 724.7	2 424.4	5.0	4.8	4.4
Bulgaria	27 116.0	3 549.8	14.7	23.1	20.6
Czech Republic	48 677.9	4 778.7	9.3	3.3	4.5
Estonia	6 056.8	4 535.8	16.2	3.4	4.5
Hungary	22 377.8	2 231.2	4.9	2.8	1.0
Latvia	5 759.4	2 529.3	3.6	7.4	7.8
Lithuania	5 754.2	1 697.4	2.7	5.2	3.5
Poland	68 694.0	1 803.8	2.3	2.9	3.8
Romania	39 485.9	1 841.9	6.7	9.3	5.8
Slovakia	21 246.4	3 941.8	4.8	6.8	3.5
Slovenia	1 556.3	777.6	-0.2	-0.7	-0.1
South-Eastern Europe	37 392.8	1 546.7	4.9	9.2	8.2
Albania	2 201.2	690.0	3.1	3.5	6.0
Bosnia and Herzegovina	4 925.0	1 251.6	5.5	5.7	13.6
Croatia	15 115.9	3 318.2	4.0	7.5	9.1
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	2 045.7	1 003.5	1.6	6.7	4.3
Montenegro	1 950.9	3 262.5	21.3	23.6	24.2
Serbia	11 154.1	1 131.4	5.9	13.8	5.3
CIS	90 326.6	325.1	1.2	1.8	1.4
Armenia	1 998.0	665.5	4.7	7.0	8.3
Azerbaijan	-23.4	-2.8	3.5	-6.2	-16.3
Belarus	3 422.5	353.2	1.0	0.9	4.0
Georgia	4 413.7	1 004.2	8.5	13.9	15.4
Kazakhstan	29 779.0	1 931.0	3.7	8.2	6.8
Kyrgyzstan	606.5	114.1	1.7	6.4	5.6
Moldova	1 423.2	375.2	6.6	7.2	10.6
Russian [illegible]ation	15 753.1	110.5	0.0	0.9	0.5
Tajikistan	1 148.4	170.5	2.4	12.0	10.8
Turkmenistan	3 109.8	626.3	2.4	3.3	3.0
Ukraine	27 671.0	598.9	8.7	5.4	6.6
Uzbekistan	1 024.8	37.4	0.6	1.1	1.2

Sources: United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, *World Investment Report 2008* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.08.II.D.23); International Monetary Fund, estimates of central bank and European Bank for Reconstruction and Development; International Monetary Fund, World Economic Outlook database; *World Population Prospects: The 2006 Revision*, vols. I and II (United Nations publications, Sales Nos. E.07.XIII.2 and E.07.XIII.3).

[a] Excluding Cyprus and Malta, which were not economies in transition.

Table 5
Remittances as a share of GDP in South-Eastern Europe and CIS, 2000-2007
(Percentage)

	2000	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
South-Eastern Europe								
Albania	16.4	17.2	16.5	15.6	15.9	15.7	14.9	13.9
Bosnia and Herzegovina	27.9	25.4	22.9	20.9	19.3	17.9	15.8	13.1
Croatia	3.5	3.8	3.8	3.7	3.4	3.1	2.9	3.5
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	2.3	2.1	2.8	3.7	4.0	3.9	4.2	3.6
Serbia	12.6	14.4	13.2	13.1	16.8	17.7	14.8	11.8
CIS								
Armenia	4.6	4.4	5.5	24.4	22.8	19.2	18.4	16.0
Azerbaijan	1.1	1.8	2.9	2.4	2.6	5.2	3.9	3.2
Belarus	1.3	1.2	1.0	1.2	1.1	1.2	0.9	0.7
Georgia	9.0	5.6	6.8	5.9	5.9	5.4	6.2	5.2
Kazakhstan	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.2
Kyrgyzstan	0.7	0.7	2.3	4.1	8.5	13.1	26.0	19.7
Moldova	13.9	16.4	19.5	24.6	27.1	30.8	35.2	28.4
Russian Federation	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3
Tajikistan	0.0	0.0	6.5	9.4	12.2	20.2	36.3	33.7
Ukraine	0.1	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.7

Source: IMF, Balance of Payments and World Economic Outlook (April 2008) databases.

Table 6
International migration to and from the Russian Federation, 2004-2007

	Migration inflows				*Migration outflows*			
	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Total	**119 157**	**177 230**	**186 380**	**286 956**	**79 795**	**69 798**	**54 061**	**47 013**
of which to and from:								
CIS	110 374	168 598	177 657	273 872	37 017	36 109	35 262	31 329
Azerbaijan	2 584	4 600	8 900	20 968	1 336	1 274	1 366	1 355
Armenia	3 057	7 581	12 949	30 751	654	620	686	728
Belarus	5 650	6 797	5 619	6 030	5 671	6 034	6 318	5 302
Georgia	4 886	5 497	6 806	10 595	740	691	593	603
Kazakhstan	40 150	51 945	38 606	40 258	12 504	12 437	11 948	10 211
Kyrgyzstan	9 511	15 592	15 669	24 731	656	473	605	668
Moldova	4 816	6 569	8 649	14 090	907	786	636	629
Tajikistan	3 339	4 717	6 523	17 309	549	434	424	464
Turkmenistan	3 734	4 104	4 089	4 846	168	125	112	111
Uzbekistan	14 948	30 436	37 126	52 802	717	595	648	722
Ukraine	17 699	30 760	32 721	51 492	13 115	12 640	11 926	10 536
Non-CIS								
Germany	3 117	3 025	2 900	3 164	42 778	33 689	18 799	15 684
Israel	1 486	1 004	1 053	1 094				
China	212	432	499	1 687	1 733	1 745	1 408	1 202
United States of America	518	396	411	578	154	456	196	56
Turkey	77	86	172	315	2 919	4 040	3 109	2 108

Source: Goskomstat (www.gks.ru) (accessed 1 July 2008).

Table 7
Selected indicators of progress in the implementation of market-oriented reform in the economies in transition,[a] 2007

	Large-scale privatization	*Small-scale privatization*	*Trade and foreign-exchange-system*	*Competition policy*	*Banking reform and interest-rate liberalization*	*Securities markets and non-bank financial institutions*	*Infrastructure reform*
Less than 3	Azerbaijan	Belarus	Belarus	Albania	Albania	Albania	Albania
	Belarus	Turkmenistan	Turkmenistan	Armenia	Armenia	Armenia	Armenia
	Serbia		Uzbekistan	Azerbaijan	Azerbaijan	Azerbaijan	Azerbaijan
	Tajikistan			Belarus	Belarus	Belarus	Belarus
	Turkmenistan			Bosnia and Herzegovina	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Bosnia and Herzegovina
	Uzbekistan			Croatia	Georgia	Georgia	Georgia
				Georgia	Kyrgyzstan	Kazakhstan	Kazakhstan
				Kazakhstan	Montenegro	Kyrgyzstan	Kyrgyzstan
				Kyrgyzstan	Russian Federation	Moldova	Moldova
				Moldova	Serbia	Montenegro	Montenegro
				Montenegro	Tajikistan	Serbia	Russian Federation
				Russian Federation	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Tajikistan	Serbia
				Serbia	Turkmenistan	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Tajikistan
				Tajikistan	Uzbekistan	Turkmenistan	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
				The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia		Ukraine	Turkmenistan
				Turkmenistan		Uzbekistan	Ukraine
				Ukraine			Uzbekistan
				Uzbekistan			
Between 3 and 4	Albania	Azerbaijan	Bosnia and Herzegovina		Kazakhstan	Croatia	Croatia
	Armenia	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Kazakhstan		Moldova[b]	Russian Federation	

	Large-scale privatization	*Small-scale privatization*	*Trade and foreign-exchange-system*	*Competition policy*	*Banking reform and interest-rate liberalization*	*Securities markets and non-bank financial institutions*	*Infrastructure reform*
	Bosnia and Herzegovina[b]	Moldova	Russian Federation		Ukraine[b]		
	Croatia	Montenegro	Serbia				
	Kazakhstan	Serbia	Tajikistan				
	Kyrgyzstan	Uzbekistan	Ukraine				
	Moldova						
	Montenegro[b]						
	Russian Federation						
	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia						
	Ukraine						
4 or over	Georgia[b]	Albania	Albania		Croatia		
		Armenia	Armenia				
		Croatia	Azerbaijan				
		Georgia	Croatia				
		Kazakhstan	Georgia				
		Kyrgyzstan	Kyrgyzstan				
		Russian Federation	Moldova				
		Tajikistan	Montenegro[b]				
		The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia				
		Ukraine					

Source: European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, *Transition Report, 2007 People in Transition* (London, November 2007), p. 6.

[a] European Bank for Reconstruction and Development classification is based on a 1 to 4+ scale where 1 signifies an economy with little or no reforms, while 4+ signifies a developed-market economy. For a detailed breakdown of each area of reform, see the methodological notes on page 210 of the *Transition Report*.

[b] Upgraded to the next group.

Table 8

Relative importance of the private sector in total production in the economies in transition,[a] mid-2007

Share of GDP	*Countries*
75 per cent or over	Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan,[b] Georgia,[b] Kyrgyzstan
50-74.9 per cent	Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Montenegro, Russian Federation, Serbia, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine
Less than 50 per cent	Belarus, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan

Source: European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, *Transition Report, 2007 People in Transition* (London, November 2007), p. 6.

[a] European Bank for Reconstruction and Development classification is based on a 1 to 4+ scale, where 1 signifies an economy with little or no reforms, while 4+ signifies a developed-market economy. For a detailed breakdown of each area of reform, see the methodological notes on page 210 of the *Transition Report*.

[b] Moved to the next group.

Table 9
Status of economies in transition vis-à-vis the World Trade Organization, May 2008

	World Trade Organization: date joined
South-eastern Europe	
Albania	September 2000
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Negotiating
Croatia	November 2000
Montenegro	Negotiating
Serbia	Negotiating
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	April 2003
CIS	
Armenia	February 2003
Azerbaijan	Negotiating
Belarus	Negotiating
Georgia	June 2000
Kazakhstan	Negotiating
Kyrgyzstan	December 1998
Moldova	July 2001
Russian Federation	Negotiating
Tajikistan	Negotiating
Turkmenistan	Not negotiating
Ukraine	May 2008
Uzbekistan	Negotiating

Source: World Trade Organization (at http://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/whatis_e/tif_e/org6_e.htm).

Table 10
Users of the Internet in South-Eastern Europe and CIS, 2007

	Subscribers (per 100 population)	*Users (per 100 population)*
South-eastern Europe		
Albania	0.65	14.98
Bosnia and Herzegovina	6.96	26.81
Croatia	30.38	43.8
Montenegro	14.78	46.82
Serbia	10.26	15.22
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	16.32	33.6
CIS		
Armenia	2.97	5.75
Azerbaijan	2.3	12.23
Belarus	4.2	61.93
Georgia	6.41	8.19
Kazakhstan	2.43	12.32
Kyrgyzstan	0.42	14.11
Moldova	2.9	18.45
Russian Federation	..	21.05
Tajikistan	0.01	0.3
Turkmenistan	..	1.41
Ukraine	13.85	21.64
Uzbekistan	0.15	4.38

Source: International Telecommunication Union.